

IND. No 77-APRIL

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

NO...NO!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
...THEY'RE PIRATES
DEAD OVER THREE
CENTURIES!

An ANCIENT SEA
MYSTERY COMES TO
PULSING LIFE!
READ
"The GOLDEN
DOOM!"





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

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**BOYS • GIRLS
MEN • WOMEN**

**Boy and Girl Scouts
Camp Fire Girls - News Boys!**

PRIZES GIVEN

MAKE MONEY, TOO!

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page ... or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radium dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, air-rifles, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, model airplanes, scout equipment, movie machines, record players, and many others ... all **WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST**. You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need **ON TRUST**. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35c ... sell on sight. You can make big cash commissions or get many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Other prizes for selling 2 sets or more. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you Free.

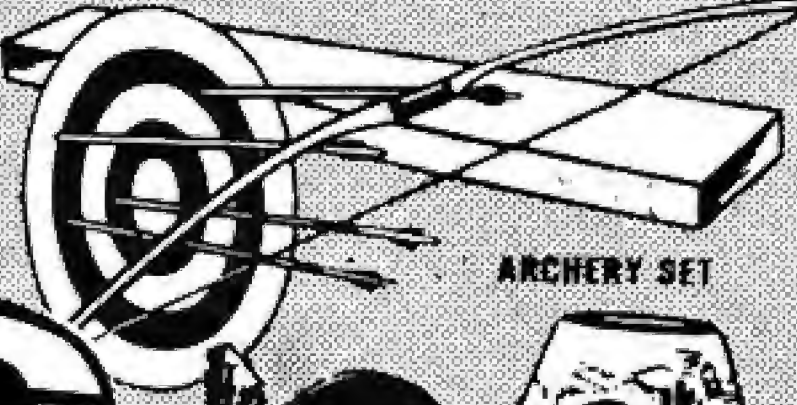
SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!



ELECTRIC TRAIN



PORTABLE
PHONOGRAPH



ARCHERY SET

MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS



FLASH
CAMERA



BOY
ROBE
OR GOWN
EVEN
LAMB

GADGET
KIT
FISHING KIT

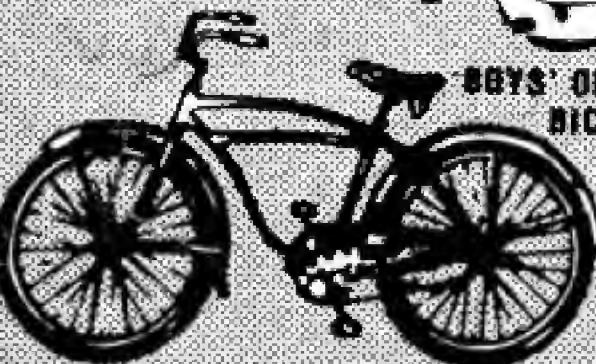


RED RYDER CARBINE

ALL KINDS OF
HOUSEWARES



POPUK
TOASTER



BOYS' OR GIRLS'
BICYCLE



SCOUTING
EQUIPMENT

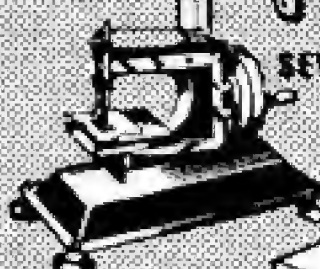
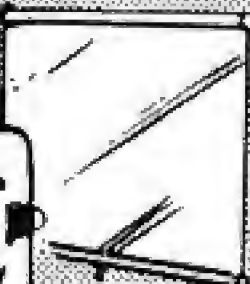


TYPEWRITER



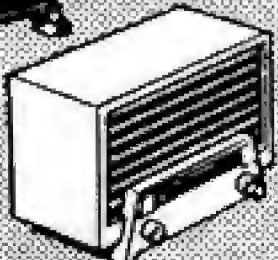
JET PLANE
WITH GAS
ENGINE

BROWNIE
MOVIE CAMERA
PROJECTOR
SCREEN

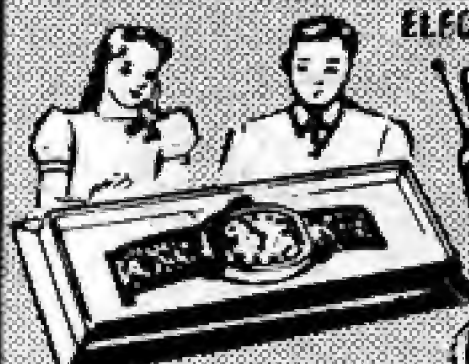


SEWING MACHINE

RADIO



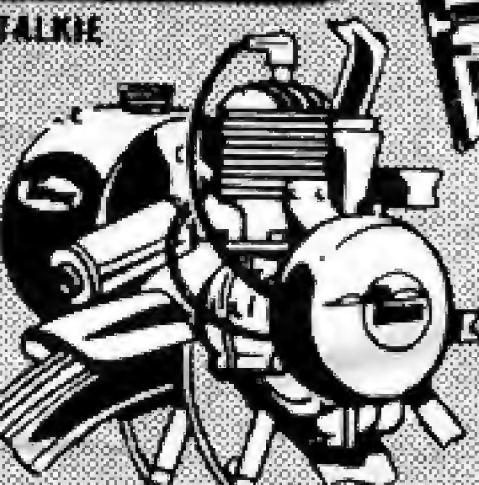
WALKING
DOLL



WRIST WATCH FOR
BOYS AND GIRLS

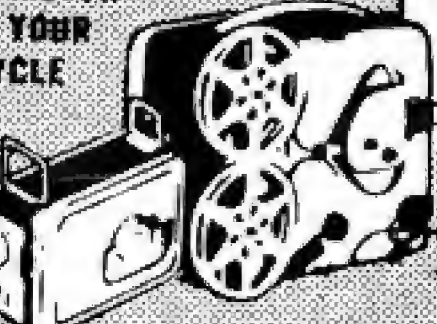
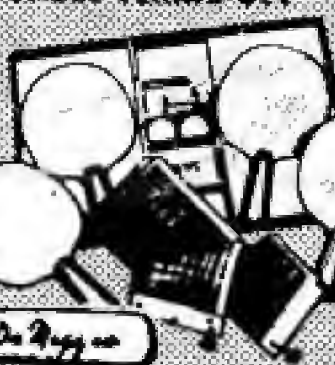


ELECTRONIC TWO-WAY WALKIE-TALKIE



GAS MOTOR
FOR YOUR
BICYCLE

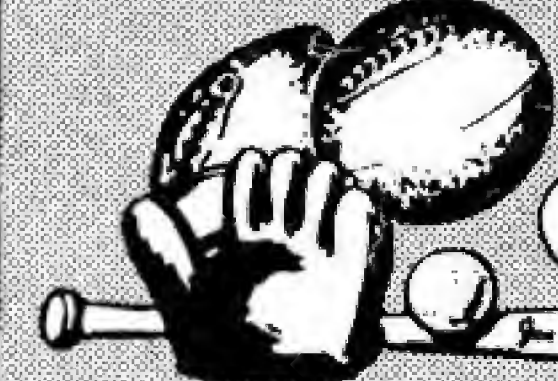
TABLE TENNIS SET



ROLLER
SKATES



GIRLS
OVERNIGHT
CASE



SPORTS EQUIPMENT



FREE
BIG
PRIZE
CATALOG



WOODBURNING
SET



CHEMISTRY
SET

HERE'S HOW YOU GET YOUR PRIZES

Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship *At Once Prepaid* your first set of 24 Mottos **on trust**. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the \$8.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. If you prefer to **EARN MONEY**, send \$6.00 and keep \$2.40. **Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST** and big Prize Catalog Free.

FREE MEMBERSHIP in FUNman's Fun Club

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and I'll give you **FREE** a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club ... Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours — **PLUS** extra surprises!

The FUNman, Dept. B-159
5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill. **FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG**

Please rush to me on 15-days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35c each. Also include big Prize Catalog **FREE**. I will remit amount required as explained in **BIG PRIZE CATALOG** within 30 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained.

Name

Street or RFD

Town.....Zone.....State.....

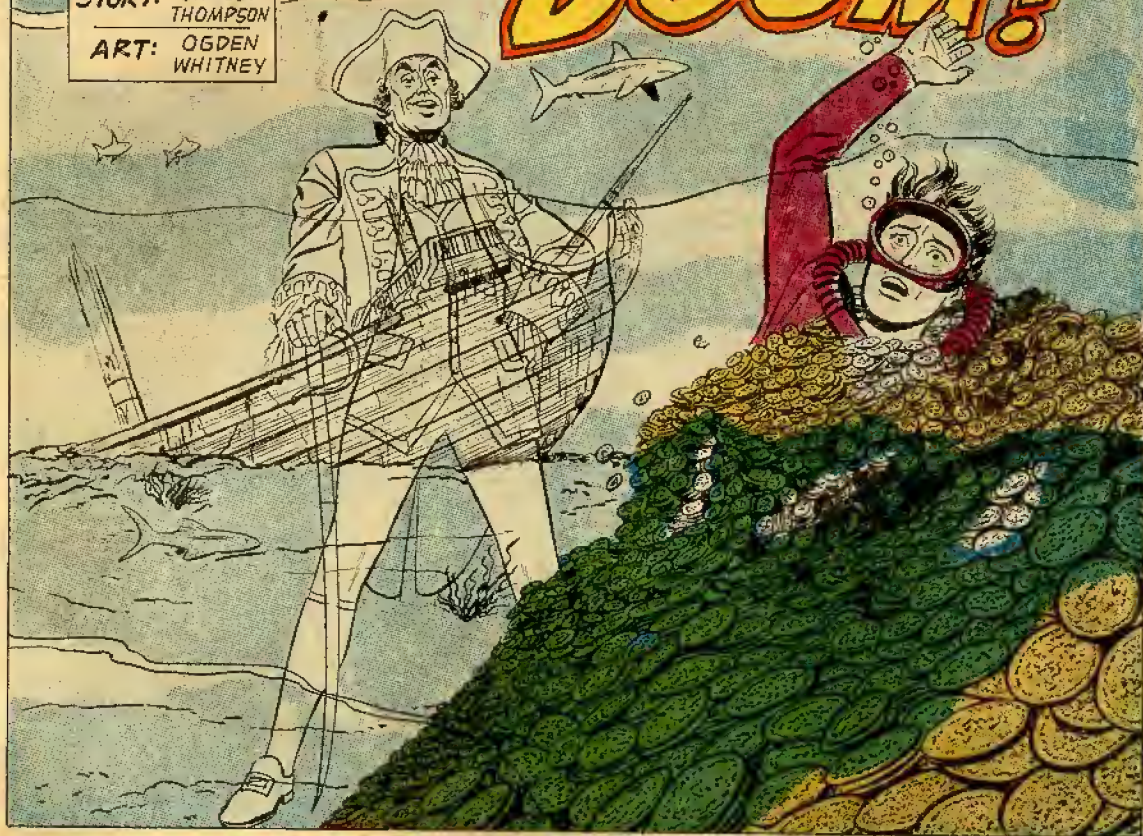
SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!

WAS IT ONLY A WILD, SPECTACULAR LEGEND...OR UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH? DOWN THROUGH THE AGES IT HAS COME, THIS STRANGE TALE OF PIRACY AND A DEADLY CURSE! WATCH **BILL MATTHEWS** LEARN THE REAL AND THRILLING STORY OF...

The GOLDEN DOOM!

STORY: JAMES R. THOMPSON

ART: OGDEN WHITNEY



THE OFFICE OF DR. DREW COMPTON, PSYCHIATRIST...

THAT'S RIGHT... THE HOSPITAL JUST RELEASED ME! THEY CALLED ME DISTURBED, AND SUGGESTED THAT I COME TO YOU! I...I KEEP ON WONDERING IF I COULD BE INSANE...

NOW, NOW! SUPPOSING WE STEP INSIDE WHERE YOU CAN RELAX... AND TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY!

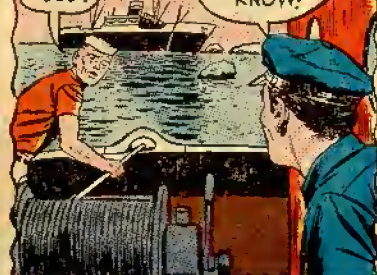
AT PRESENT, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR YOUTH OR EARLY LIFE! JUST TELL ME WHAT LED TO YOUR PRESENT CONDITION...TO THESE "DELUSIONS" THE HOSPITAL SAYS YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM!

I'LL START AT THE BEGINNING...AT LEAST, WHAT I THINK IS THE BEGINNING!

"I WAS IN THE MARINE SALVAGE BUSINESS BEFORE THE WAR...AND I WORKED PRETTY DARNED HARD AT IT..."

THAT'S THE THIRD LINE WHICH HAS PARTED! THIS IS A TOUGH JOB!

CONFOUND IT, YOU WORK HARD AND WIND UP WITH PRACTICALLY NOTHING...BUT IT'S THE ONLY BUSINESS I KNOW!



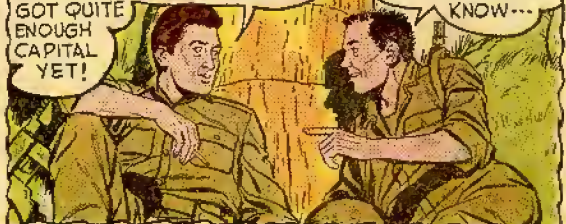
"BUT SOON I LEARNED SOMETHING ELSE---HOW TO BE A SOLDIER AND FIGHT FOR MY LIFE! IF IT WAS ACTION I WAS LOOKING FOR, THE SECOND WORLD WAR SURE PROVIDED IT..."



"BUT WHEN THERE WAS NO FIGHTING, WE DID WHAT GI'S EVERYWHERE WERE DOING---TALKING---PLANNING WHAT WE WOULD DO WHEN HOSTILITIES CEASED! MY BUDDY WAS **GREG ANDERSON**..."

I KNOW ALL ABOUT SALVAGE AND SHIPS, AND I'VE SAVED SOME DOUGH! I'M GOING TO GO INTO SOMETHING THAT HAS ADVENTURE IN IT---AND A CHANCE TO CLEAN UP **BIG! HUNT SUNKEN TREASURE**. THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO--- BUT I HAVEN'T GOT QUITE ENOUGH CAPITAL YET!

LET ME COME IN WITH YOU, BILL! I'VE GOT THE MONEY MY UNCLE LEFT ME! WE COULD SWING IT BETWEEN US--- AND YOU COULD TEACH ME EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW...



WHY DIDN'T I STOP HIM RIGHT THERE AND THEN? WHY'D I LET THAT POOR GUY COME IN--- AND OPEN THE WAY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? OH, IT WAS MY FAULT, MINE---MINE!

YOU'RE EXCITING YOURSELF TOO MUCH, MR. MATTHEWS! SUPPOSE YOU GO HOME, AND RELAX! YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR STORY TOMORROW, WHEN YOU'RE CALMER!

NEXT DAY, BILL MATTHEWS SEEMED MORE AT EASE...

WHERE WAS I?---OH, YES---I TOOK POOR GREG'S MONEY, ADDED IT TO MINE AND WE HAD ENOUGH FOR THE DOWN PAYMENT ON THE **DAVY JONES**, A FAST, MODERN TREASURE-HUNTER! SHE'D BEEN OWNED BY LEO GRIMES, A VETERAN OF YEARS IN THE BUSINESS...



WELL, SHE'S YOURS NOW! THERE'S A PRETTY FAIR LIVING IN THIS SUNKEN TREASURE RACKET, BUT IT'S HARD WORK, SOMETIMES DANGEROUS! I JUST FELT I OUGHTA WARN YOU WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME TO BACK OUT!

WHY WOULD WE WANT TO DO THAT, GRIMES?



OH, I DUNNO---TROUBLE WITH MOST FELLAS WHO GO INTO THIS LINE IS THEY THINK THEY CAN WALTZ RIGHT IN AND COME UP WITH THAT RICH OLD PILE OF SWAG CALLED **THE GOLDEN DOOM!**

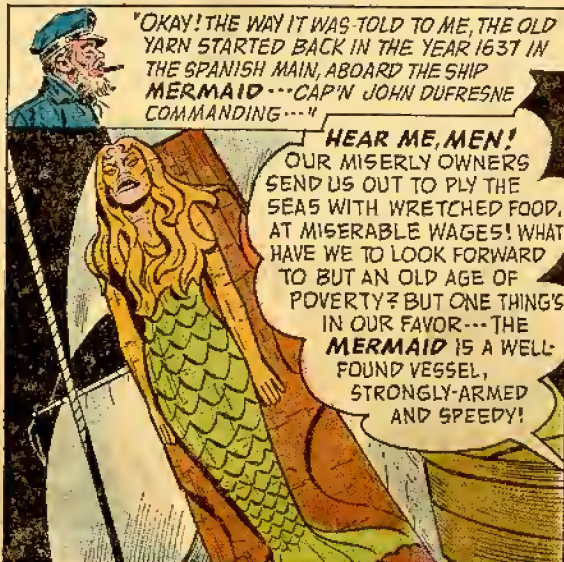
GOLDEN DOOM! HEY, WE'RE NOT GONNA LET YOU LEAVE THIS SHIP BEFORE YOU TELL US WHAT **THAT** ONE'S ALL ABOUT!

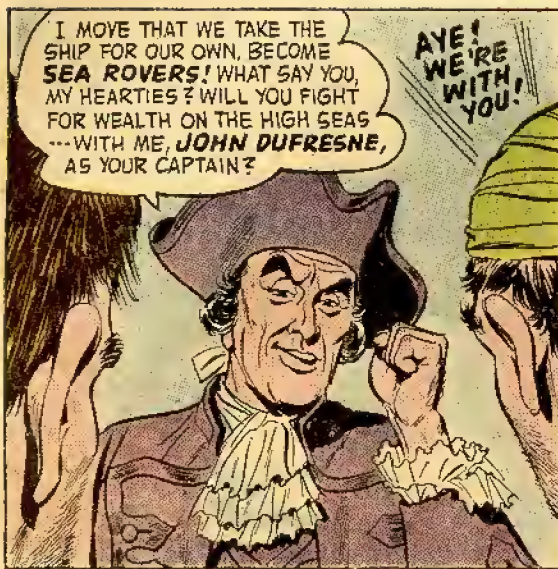


"OKAY! THE WAY IT WAS TOLD TO ME, THE OLD YARN STARTED BACK IN THE YEAR 1631 IN THE SPANISH MAIN, ABOARD THE SHIP **MERMAID**---CAP'N JOHN DUFRESNE COMMANDING---"

HEAR ME, MEN!

OUR MISERLY OWNERS SEND US OUT TO PLY THE SEAS WITH WRETCHED FOOD, AT MISERABLE WAGES! WHAT HAVE WE TO LOOK FORWARD TO BUT AN OLD AGE OF POVERTY? BUT ONE THING'S IN OUR FAVOR---THE **MERMAID** IS A WELL-FOUNDED VESSEL, STRONGLY-ARMED AND SPEEDY!





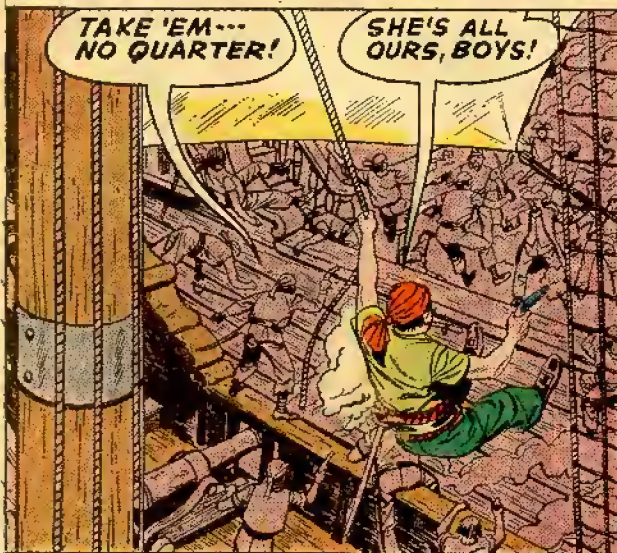
I MOVE THAT WE TAKE THE SHIP FOR OUR OWN, BECOME **SEA ROVERS!** WHAT SAY YOU, MY HEARTIES? WILL YOU FIGHT FOR WEALTH ON THE HIGH SEAS --- WITH ME, **JOHN DUFRESNE,** AS YOUR CAPTAIN?

AYE! WE'RE WITH YOU!



AND SO THE **MERMAID** BECAME ONE OF THE CRUELEST, MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES OF THE SPANISH MAIN---

BOOM!



TAKE 'EM--- NO QUARTER!

SHE'S ALL OURS, BOYS!



HER SHIP'S VERY NAME WAS HATED AND FEARED! EVEN OTHER PIRATES DREADED HER, AND WITH REASON---

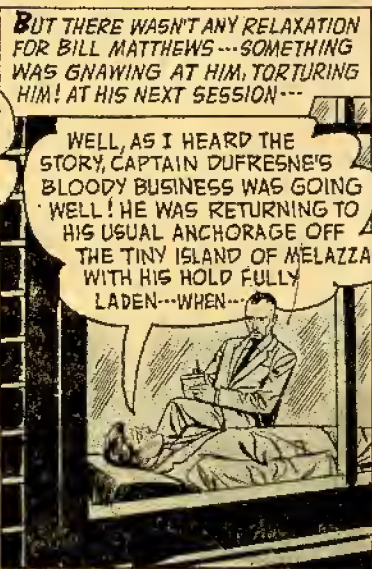
IT'S THE **SEA WITCH**, CAP'N DUFRESNE---A PIRATE LIKE OURSELVES!

NO, NOT LIKE OURSELVES--- SMALLER! **SINK HER---WE WANT NO COMPETITION!**



I--- I CAN'T GO ON! DUFRESNE'S FACE---IT HAUNTS ME, **HAUNTS ME!**

BUT WHY SHOULD THE FACE OF A MAN DEAD FOR THREE CENTURIES CAUSE YOU SUCH AGITATION? NEVER MIND, THOUGH --- THAT'LL BE ALL FOR TODAY! GO HOME AND REST, WHY DON'T YOU?



BUT THERE WASN'T ANY RELAXATION FOR BILL MATTHEWS---SOMETHING WAS GNAWING AT HIM, TORTURING HIM! AT HIS NEXT SESSION---

WELL, AS I HEARD THE STORY, CAPTAIN DUFRESNE'S BLOODY BUSINESS WAS GOING WELL! HE WAS RETURNING TO HIS USUAL ANCHORAGE OFF THE TINY ISLAND OF MELAZZA WITH HIS HOLD FULLY LADEN---WHEN---



SHE'S HEAVILY ARMORED, CAP'N --- BESIDES, WE'VE GOT ALL THE LOOT WE CAN CARRY!

NONSENSE--- THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE! **OPEN FIRE WITH ALL GUNS!**

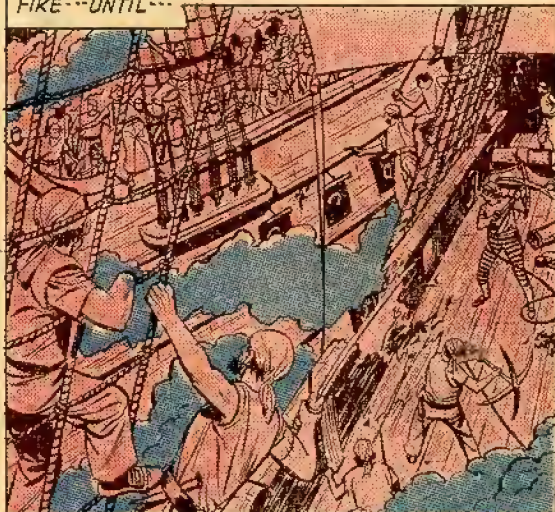
BUT THE MERCHANTMAN THUNDERED BACK--ITS GUNS SCORING REPEATEDLY--



SHE'S HOLDING US OFF! MAYBE WE'D BETTER LET HER GO--

NO VESSEL HAS EVER OUT-FOUGHT THE **MERMAID**! BEAR DOWN ON HER--EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SAIL RIGHT INTO HER FIRE! **WE'VE GOT TO BOARD HER!**

AT TERRIFIC COST, THEY SAILED INTO THE BLISTERING FIRE--UNTIL--



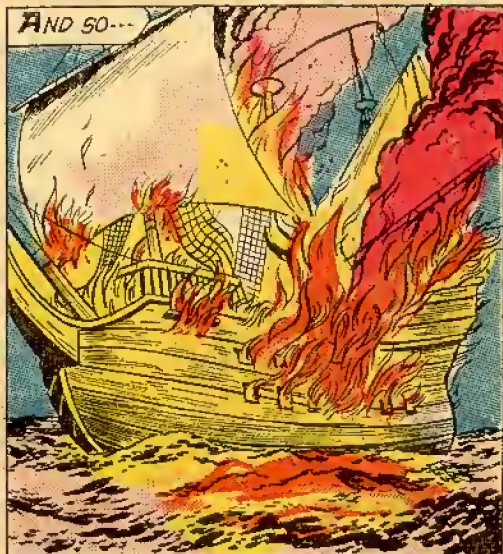
IT WAS A HARD, HAND-TO-HAND BATTLE--BUT FINALLY THE SHIP WAS TAKEN--

IT'S THE GREATEST TREASURE HAUL IN HISTORY, CAP'N--THOSE CHESTS ARE LOADED WITH GOLD! WHAT DO YOU WANT DONE WITH THE CREW AND PASSENGERS?

THE **MERMAID** WILL BE TOO HEAVILY LADEN TO BOTHER WITH **THEM**! PUT THE SHIP TO THE TORCH FOR HAVING DARED RESIST US SO! **THEY** CAN TAKE TO THEIR SMALL BOATS--AND IF THEY NEVER MAKE SHORE, THAT'S **THEIR** HARD LUCK!



AND SO--



AS THE MERMAID SAILED AWAY FROM THE DOOMED VESSEL--

THERE THEY GO--ABANDONING US TO THE SEAS!

HUMAN BEINGS WHO NEVER HURT THEM--AND THEY DID THIS TERRIBLE DEED FOR **GOLD**!

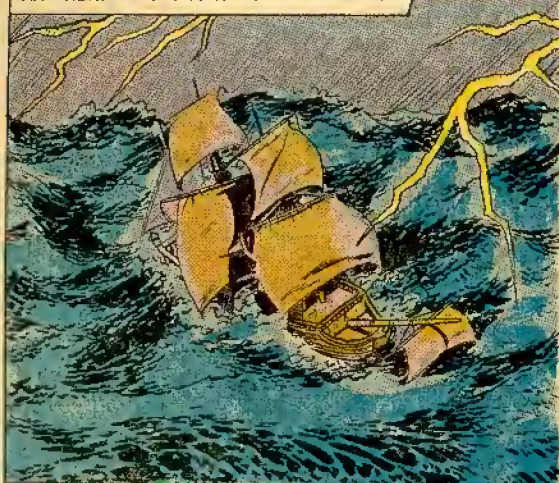


IT WAS THEN THAT THE CURSE CAME TO PASS--A CURSE DESTINED TO LIVE THROUGH THE CENTURIES--

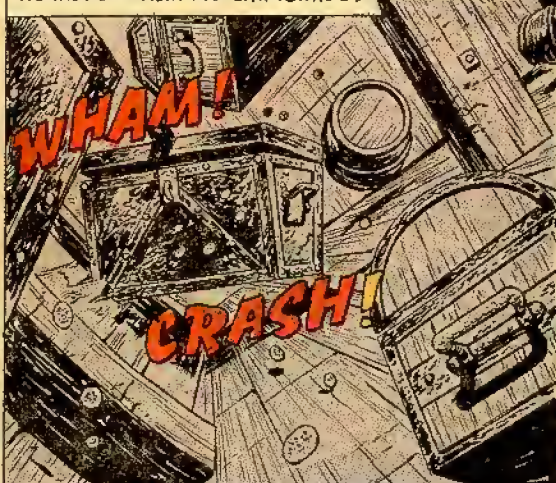
IT WAS A DEVILISH TRADE--THE TREASURE TROVE FOR OUR LIVES! MAY NEITHER JOY NOR GOOD FORTUNE EVER COME TO THEM FROM IT! MAY IT ALWAYS PROVE A **GOLDEN DOOM**, BRINGING **TRAGEDY** TO WHOMEVER TRIES TO GAIN IT!



THE CURSE SEEMED TO WORK FROM THE START! FOR THE HEAVILY-LADEN **MERMAID**, RIDING LOW IN THE WATER, RAN HEADLONG INTO A TERRIFIC STORM---



IN THE HOLD, THE HUGE TREASURE CHESTS WERE FLUNG AGAINST THE SIDES OF THE SHIP---ALREADY WEAKENED FROM THE CANNONADE!



THE SHIP'S SPRUNG A LEAK IN HER HOLD, CAP'N! WE'VE GOT TO---

NO TIME FOR THAT--WE'VE GOT ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO FIGHT THE STORM!

WHEN THE GALE FINALLY DIED DOWN, THE **MERMAID** RODE ALARMINGLY LOW IN THE SEA---

THE WATER'S CREEPING UP IN THE HOLD---IT LOOKS **BAD!**

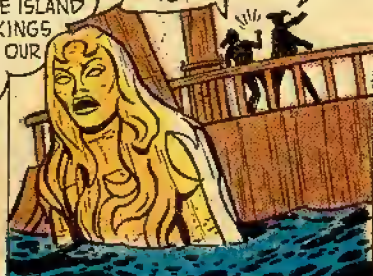
OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO LIGHTEN THE SHIP! WE---WE'VE GOT TO THROW THOSE CHESTS OF GOLD OVERBOARD...THERE'S NO CHOICE!

NEVER! NOT WHEN WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO THE ISLAND AND LIVE LIKE KINGS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES ON THAT GOLD!

LOWER AND LOWER RODE THE **MERMAID** AS THEY HEADED FOR THEIR ISLAND HARBOR! AND THE CREW'S PANIC GREW! "THROW THE GOLD OVER AND SAVE US!" THEY BEGGED. BUT INSTEAD---

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT, I TELL YOU! YOU'VE GOT TO---

YOU DARE TELL ME WHAT TO DO, DOG?



LOOK! THERE'S OUR ISLAND ON THE HORIZON---WHERE WE CAN MAKE REPAIRS AND DIVIDE THE SWAG! I **KNEW** WE'D MAKE IT!



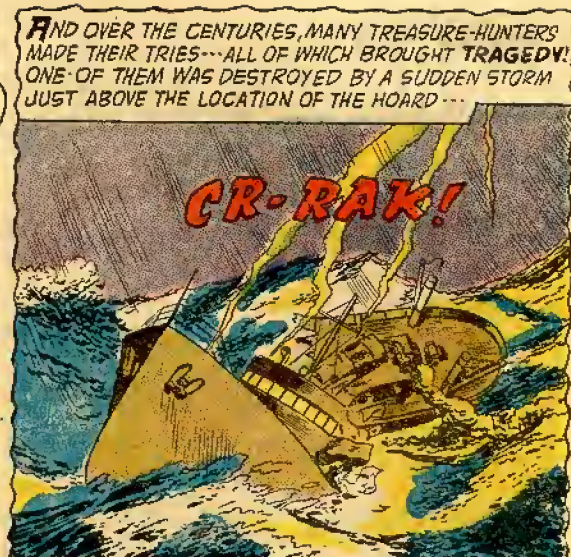
BUT IT DIDN'T TURN OUT THAT WAY! WITH A SAFE ANCHORAGE JUST AHEAD, A SHIVER RAN THROUGH THE SHIP! THEN IT TILTED---PLUNGED DOWNWARD---AS THE CURSE OF THE **GOLDEN DOOM** HIT HOME!





HHMM... I CAN SEE **NOW** WHY YOU'VE BEEN SO DISTURBED, WITH ALL THESE VISIONS OF VIOLENCE PREYING ON YOUR MIND! HADN'T YOU BETTER CALL IT A DAY?

NO---LET ME---LET ME GET IT ALL OFF MY CHEST! JUST A FEW PIRATES SURVIVED--- ENOUGH TO SPREAD THE LEGEND OF THE **GOLDEN DOOM**--- THE TREASURE THAT LAY BENEATH THE SURFACE, AWAITING ANYONE WHO DARED TRY FOR IT!



AND OVER THE CENTURIES, MANY TREASURE-HUNTERS MADE THEIR TRIES--- ALL OF WHICH BROUGHT **TRAGEDY!** ONE OF THEM WAS DESTROYED BY A SUDDEN STORM JUST ABOVE THE LOCATION OF THE HOARD---

CR-RAK!



YES, SHE'D FALLEN PREY TO THE **GOLDEN DOOM!** SO DID OTHERS---

LOOK OUT! SHARKS!



FOUR YEARS AGO, THERE WAS THE TREASURE-HUNTER **S.S. EUREKA!** SHE HAD RADIO AND IT WAS A FAIR DAY--- BUT THIS IS ALL THEY FOUND OF HER---



I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, MR. MATTHEWS --- A MAN OF EDUCATION AND INTELLIGENCE, BEING TAKEN IN BY THESE **LEGENDS**--- AND BECOMING EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED ABOUT THEM!

DOC, THEY AREN'T WHAT DISTURBED ME! IT'S WHAT I SAW AND LIVED THROUGH **MYSELF!** IT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME--- AND HEAVEN HELP ME, **WHAT I BROUGHT UPON MY FRIEND GREG!**



WE DIDN'T BELIEVE THOSE STORIES ABOUT THE **GOLDEN DOOM** FOR ONE SECOND! WE HAD COURAGE, MODERN EQUIPMENT--- WE KNEW APPROXIMATELY WHERE THE **MERMAID** HAD GONE DOWN---

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE'RE IN THE RIGHT SPOT---

GOOD HEAVENS, BILL --- **LOOK AT OUR SHIP!**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

Get Rid of UGLY PIMPLES this new easy way!

Amazing new medicated lotion developed by a doctor works wonders by clearing up complexion in one week or less!

DON'T let a bad complexion ruin romance, spoil your fun, cause you to be embarrassed, shy or ashamed. If you suffer from acne, the common external cause of pimples among young people, try this wonderfully effective medicated lotion that was developed by a practicing physician to clear up his own teen-ager's complexion after other methods had failed. It has produced astonishing results for many thousands of others. It is **GUARANTEED** to help you or it won't cost you a single cent!

Doesn't Show On Your Face

Keraplex is a skin-colored lotion (NOT a greasy salve or ointment!) that is quickly absorbed by the skin and gets right down in the pores where its healing and antiseptic ingredients can go to work. After you have applied it, there is no trace left on the surface. In fact, it makes a perfect powder base for girls and a refreshing after shaving lotion for men... actually improves the tone of the skin! It is pleasant and easy to use—leaving your skin soft, clean and fragrant.

Works in SIX Out of SEVEN Cases!

An analysis of **RESULTS** taken from actual case histories proves that Keraplex is successful in clearing up 6 of every 7 cases of externally caused pimples and blackheads. It tones up the complexion, giving it a healthy, radiant glow. And men—if you suffer from pimples on shoulders and back, Keraplex does an amazingly effective job of clearing them up **FAST**—without soiling clothes, without messiness or greasiness!

Try This New Method Without Risking A Penny!

Keraplex is **GUARANTEED** to clear up your skin troubles or there will be **NO COST** to you whatsoever. If yours happens to be the **ONE** extra-stubborn case out of seven which Keraplex cannot help in one short week, it will cost you nothing to have tried it. Keraplex is sent to you with that simple, positive **GUARANTEE!**

SEND NO MONEY

You need send no money with the coupon below. When postman delivers your Keraplex lotion (in plain wrapper marked "Personal"), deposit with him only the modest price indicated below, plus a few cents postage. Then use your Keraplex morning and night for a full week, following the simple directions which will be enclosed.

If you do not **SEE RESULTS** that delight you—if you are not fully convinced that Keraplex **IS** clearing up your complexion—just return the empty bottle or unused portion and the purchase price will be refunded in full. Don't delay a single day. The longer you let your skin troubles go, the more difficult it will be to clear them up and get your complexion back to a healthy, clear, unblemished condition! Clip and mail the coupon **TODAY**. Underwood Laboratories, Inc., Stratford, Conn.



BEFORE

This young man suffered from a severe case of acne for years and tried all the usual "remedies" without success.



AFTER

Same young man after using KERAPLEX twice a day for just one week. Notice the decided improvement—pimples completely gone!



BEFORE

Note more than a dozen blemishes on just one side of this girl's face before KERAPLEX was applied.



AFTER

Same girl had used KERAPLEX twice a day for only 5 days when above photo was taken. Note the amazing improvement.

WHAT USERS SAY:

"I was suffering from a severe case of acne... and with only 4 days' treatment with Keraplex... was completely relieved."—P. S.

"I have been completely satisfied with your lotion to help clear up the pimples on my face."—K. W.

"I have used Keraplex and for the first time in my life, my pimples are clearing up in good shape. I can't thank you enough!"—E. S.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

**UNDERWOOD LABORATORIES, Inc., Dept. 243
STRATFORD, CONN.**

Yes! I want to try Keraplex **ON APPROVAL**! Send size checked below in plain wrapper marked "Personal." When it is delivered I will deposit with postman amount indicated below, plus postage. If not delighted with the **RESULTS**, I will return empty bottle within seven days for a full refund of the purchase price.

- ☐ Regular Size, \$1.98
☐ Double Quantity (Two Bottles), \$3.50

Name

Address

City Zone State

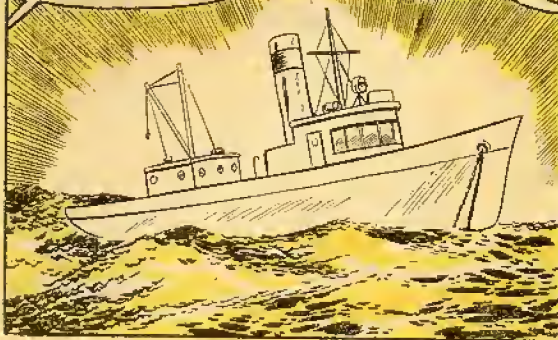
☐ **SAVE POSTAGE.** Check here if you **ENCLOSE** payment, in which case we pay postage. Same money-back Guarantee applies!

Payment must be sent with orders going to A.P.O.'s, Canada and foreign countries, due to postal rules.

THERE WAS THE **DAVY JONES**, AT ANCHOR NEARBY... AND LIT BY A SHIMMERING, MYSTERIOUS GLOW--AS IF THE **GOLDEN DOOM** ITSELF WAS SETTling ITS BALEFUL INFLUENCE OVER IT!

WHAT'S CAUSING IT? IT ...IT'S **SCAREY!** M-MAYBE WE'RE BEING **WARNED** ABOUT SOMETHING!

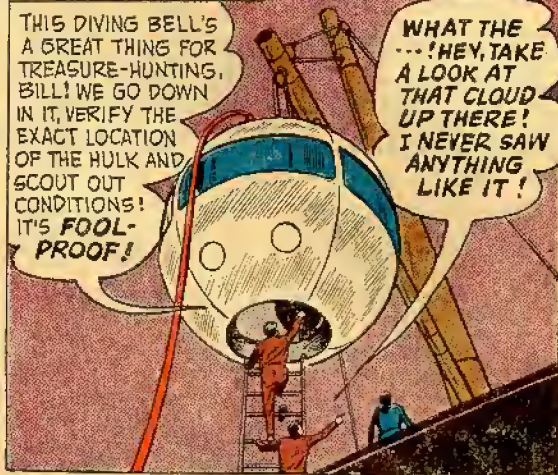
IF YOU THINK THAT'S GOING TO FRIGHTEN ME OFF, GREG, YOU'RE **WRONG!**



NO, I WASN'T GOING TO BE SCARED---NOT WHEN I SENSED SO SURELY THAT THE HUGE TREASURE WAS NEAR! NEXT MORNING---

THIS DIVING BELL'S A GREAT THING FOR TREASURE-HUNTING, BILL! WE GO DOWN IN IT, VERIFY THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE HULK AND SCOUT OUT CONDITIONS! IT'S **FOOL-PROOF!**

WHAT THE ...! HEY, TAKE A LOOK AT THAT CLOUD UP THERE! I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT!

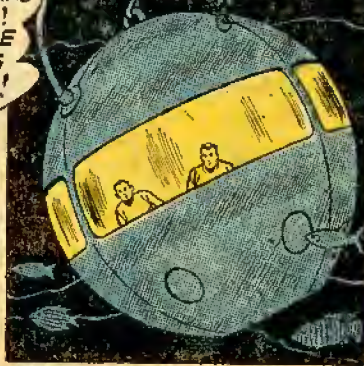


THERE IT WAS IN THE SKIES ABOVE US---THE STRANGEST, MOST SINISTER CLOUD FORMATION EVER SEEN! IT WAS FASHIONED OF MIST, BUT IT WAS---

THE BIG SPHERE PLUNGED INTO THE SEA! DOWN AND DOWN IT SANK---

...THE **MERMAID** HERSELF! I---I DON'T GET IT!

NONSENSE, GREG---IT'S JUST AN ACCIDENTAL CLOUD FORMATION! COME ON---WE'VE GOT A DIVING JOB TO DO!



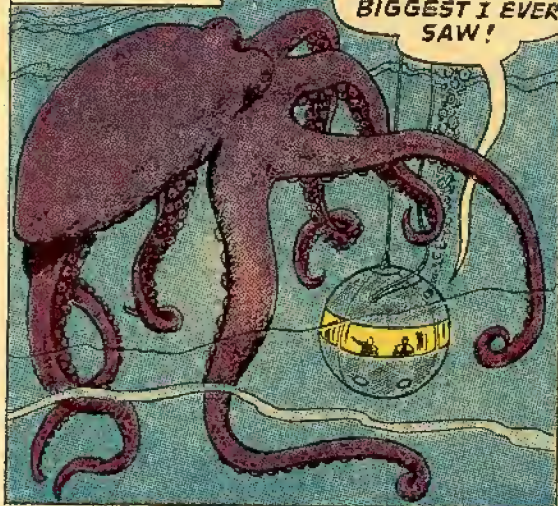
---AND CAME TO REST DIRECTLY ABOVE THE WRECKAGE OF THE OLD MERMAID!

WE'VE FOUND IT! **HURRAH!**

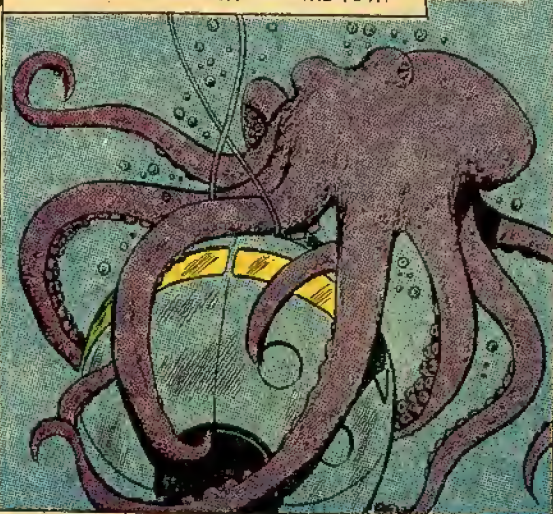


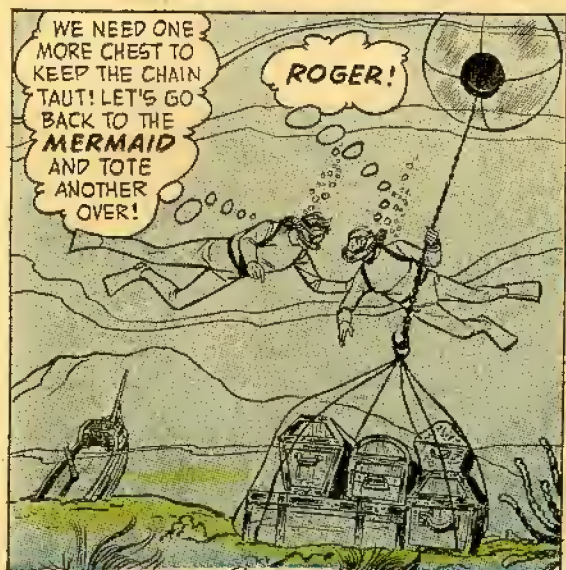
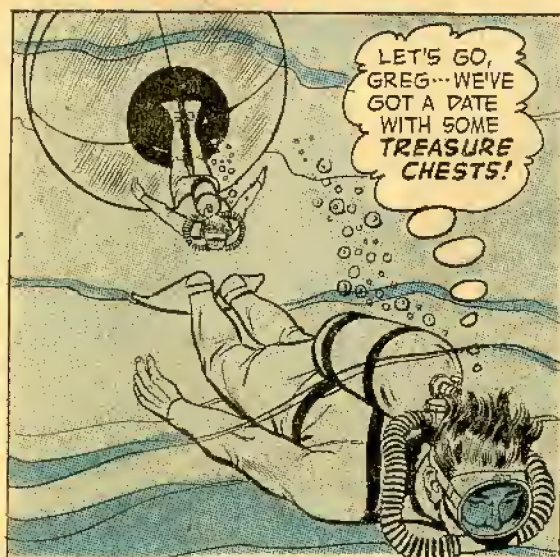
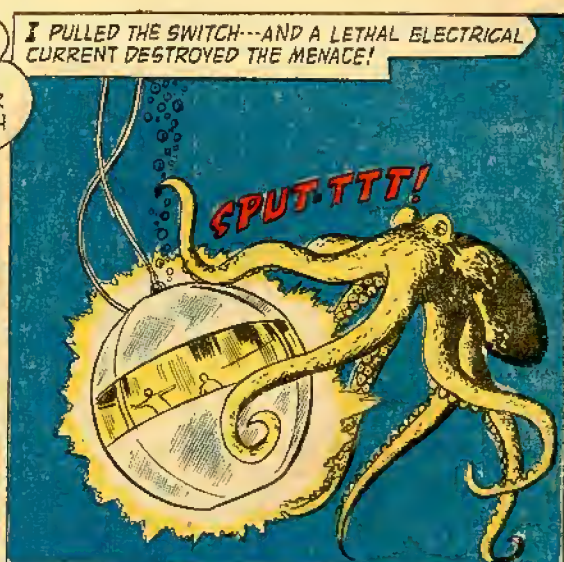
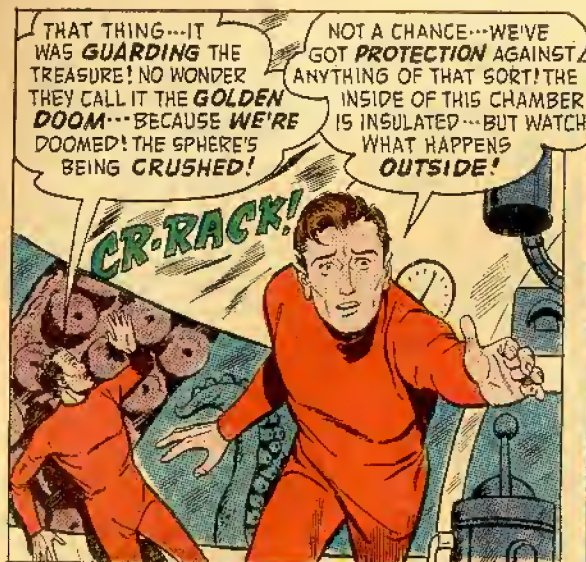
BUT NEXT MOMENT CAME DEADLY PERIL!

IT---IT'S AN OCTOPUS---THE BIGGEST I EVER SAW!



HOVERING OVER THE DIVING BELL, IT SEIZED IT IN A GRIP OF MONSTROUS STRENGTH---





DESPERATELY, I LEAPED TO ONE SIDE---BUT SOMETHING SEEMED TO HIT ME WITH A STUNNING IMPACT---



PAINFULLY, I PULLED MYSELF FROM UNDER THE CRUSHING WEIGHT THAT PINNED ME DOWN---AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW WHAT IT WAS---



IT---IT WAS ONLY THE SHIP'S FIGUREHEAD---AND THE SEA DISTORTED IT, GAVE IT A MOTION THAT I THOUGHT WAS REAL! I'M LUCKY---IT DIDN'T KILL ME!



GREG! HE'S PINNED DOWN, UNCONSCIOUS! I'VE GOT TO--- GET HIM OUT---



GOT TO GET HIM TOPSIDE---HE SEEMS TO BE HURT BAD!

I MANAGED TO DRAG HIM THROUGH THE LOCK AND INTO THE DIVING BELL---WHERE I MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY!



OH, NO, NO! HE---HE'S DEAD!

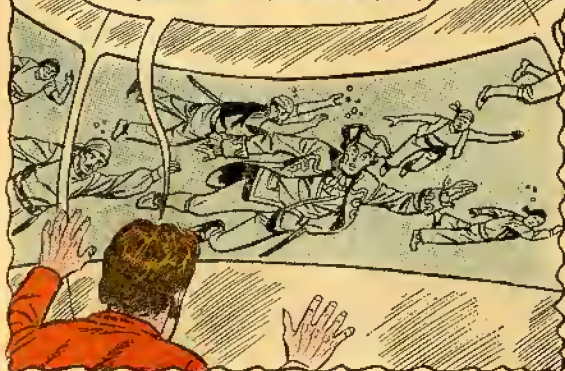


NOW, NOW, MR. MATTHEWS, THAT'S ENOUGH! I THINK YOU'VE HAD PLenty FOR THIS TIME!

BUT I CAN'T STOP! I---I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU THE REST ---NOW!

IT WAS THE GREATEST SHOCK I'D EVER HAD---I GUESS I ALMOST PASSED OUT! WHAT STOPPED ME WAS THE SOUND OF HOLLOW LAUGHTER! I LOOKED UP---AND YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT I SAW!

I---I MUST BE DREAMING THIS! IT'S CAPTAIN DUFRESNE---AND HIS PIRATE CREW!



NEXT MOMENT, IT WAS ALMOST AS IF THEY'D DOZED THROUGH THE WALLS---FOR THEY WERE INSIDE THE DIVING BELL---ATTACKING!

NO---GET BACK---



I WAS WEAK, IN A PANIC---HOW COULD I DEFEND MYSELF? I PICKED UP THE FIRST THING AT HAND AND HURLED IT AT CAPTAIN DUFRESNE---

CRASH!



AND THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER, I WAS BACK ON THE DECK OF THE **DAVY JONES**---SAFE---

HE'S COMING AROUND, THANK HEAVENS!

DID YOU GET THE TREASURE? WE FASTENED IT TO THE CHAIN---BELOW THE DIVING BELL---

WHAT TREASURE? TAKE A LOOK!



THAT'S THE STORY... I---I CAN'T FORGET IT! THAT TREASURE **WAS** THE GOLDEN DOOM---AND IT WAS POOR GREG'S DOOM! OH, IF ONLY I HADN'T GONE AFTER IT---IF ONLY I HADN'T TAKEN GREG WITH ME---

YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND LISTEN TO ME, MR. MATTHEWS! LISTEN TO THE **TRUTH!**



THE STORY ABOUT THE **GOLDEN DOOM** WAS JUST LEGEND---AND SHOT THROUGH WITH SUPERSTITION, THE WAY MOST LEGENDS ARE! MERE IGNORANT NONSENSE! NOW, AS FAR AS YOUR **OWN** EXPERIENCES WENT, LET ME TRY TO REVIEW THEM **LOGICALLY!**



LET'S CONSIDER THAT WEIRD GLOW THAT ENVELOPED YOUR TREASURE-HUNTING SHIP **DAVY JONES** WHEN IT WAS OVER THE POSITION OF THE SUNKEN **MERMAID**! IT'S NOT A BIT EXTRAORDINARY! JUST PHOSPHORESCENT PLANKTON BLOWN BY THE WIND AND CLINGING TO YOUR BOAT, THAT'S ALL! NOW, THE CLOUD FORMATION IN THE SHAPE OF THE PIRATE SHIP---CONFESS, HAVEN'T YOU OFTEN SEEN CLOUDS THAT SEEM TO TAKE PRACTICALLY **EVERY** FORM?



NOW LET'S TAKE THAT **OCTOPUS**! THEY'RE KNOWN TO FREQUENT THE LOCATIONS OF OLD WRECKS---AND TO ATTACK ANYTHING INVADING THEIR DOMAIN! AND THAT BUSINESS OF THE **MERMAID** WHICH SEEMED TO ATTACK YOU---YOU ALREADY FIGURED OUT FOR YOURSELF THAT IT WAS ONLY THE SHIP'S FALLING FIGUREHEAD, DISTORTED BY THE MOTION OF THE WAVES!



NEXT COMES THAT BUSINESS OF THE HOLLOW LAUGHTER, AND AN ATTACK YOU SAY WAS MADE ON YOU BY PIRATES WHO'VE BEEN DEAD FOR THREE CENTURIES! WHY, MAN, YOU WERE INJURED---IN A STATE OF **SHOCK**! AND WITH ALL THE LEGENDS YOU'D SOAKED UP, **DELUSIONS** LIKE THAT WERE NATURAL, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING TO THEM!



AND JUST REMEMBER THAT YOU DIDN'T FAIL! YOU WENT TREASURE-HUNTING AND YOU SUCCEEDED, BECAUSE YOU BROUGHT BACK THE GREATEST TREASURE OF ALL---
YOUR LIFE!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT **THAT**, ANYWAY! BUT AS FAR AS THE REST OF IT IS CONCERNED---
I WONDER! YOU SEE, I WENT BACK INTO THAT DIVING BELL---



---AND THERE, ON THE FLOOR, WAS A PIECE OF THE MIRROR THAT I'D THROWN AT THE PIRATE CAPTAIN IN WHAT YOU CALL MY **DELUSIONS**! IF **THIS** WAS A DELUSION, JUST EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON IT, PLEASE!

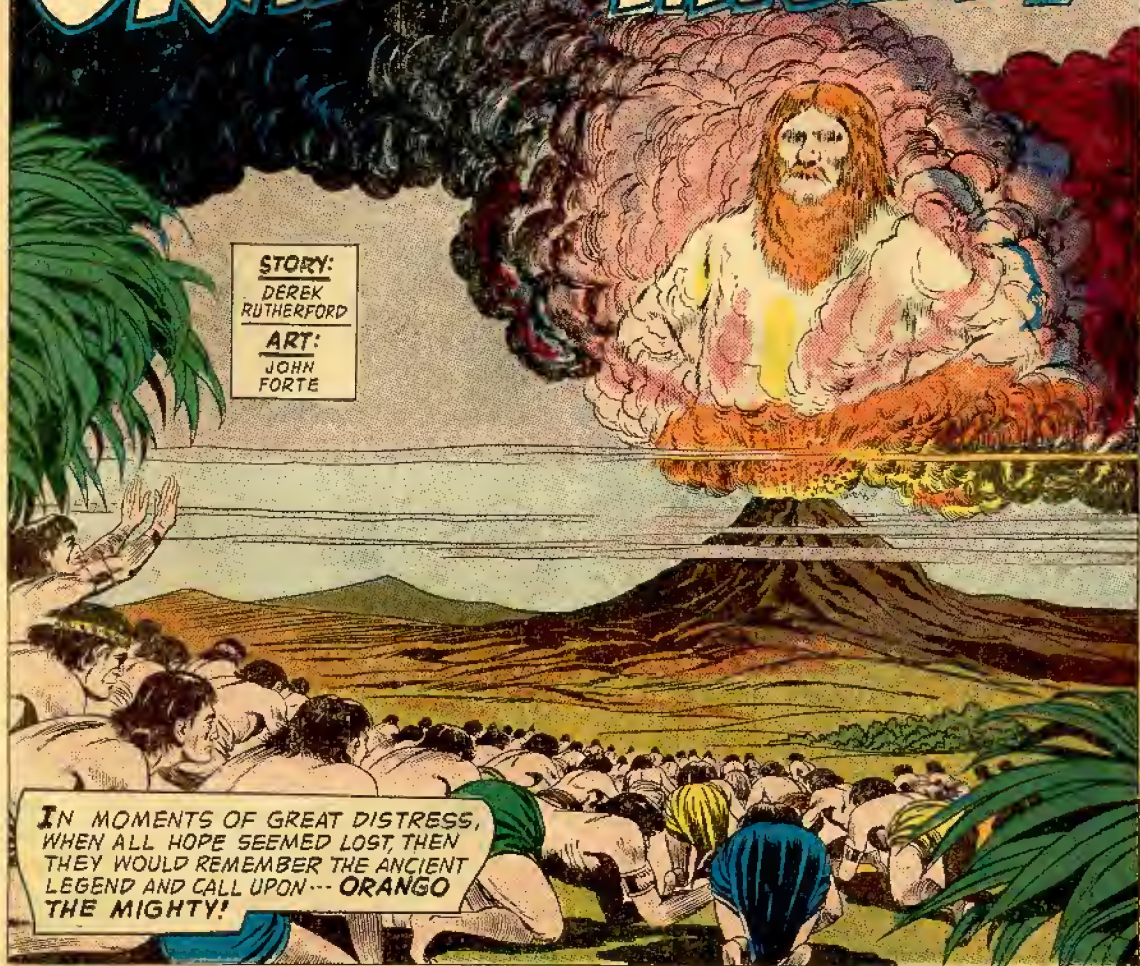


THERE, ETCHED DEEPLY INTO THE MIRROR IN THAT MOMENT OF AWFUL DRAMA, WAS THE REFLECTION OF A MAN WHO COULD NOT REST---WHO WAS KEPT ALIVE THROUGH THE CENTURIES BY THE CURSE OF THE **GOLDEN DOOM!**



ORANGO the MIGHTY

STORY:
DEREK
RUTHERFORD
ART:
JOHN
FORTE



IN MOMENTS OF GREAT DISTRESS, WHEN ALL HOPE SEEMED LOST, THEN THEY WOULD REMEMBER THE ANCIENT LEGEND AND CALL UPON... **ORANGO THE MIGHTY!**

AS DUSK FELL IN THE MOUNTAINOUS FOOTHILLS OF A REMOTE GUATEMALAN REGION, TWO AMERICAN RESEARCHERS OBSERVED A SOLEMN SCENE...

IT'S A PITY, LIVING AS THEY HAVE ALL THESE CENTURIES IN THIS AREA... AND NOW FACED WITH LOSING THEIR LAND AND THEIR HOMES!

BUT WHY THIS PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOUNTAIN?

BECAUSE OF THE **LEGEND!** THE MOUNTAIN IS SUPPOSEDLY THE DWELLING PLACE OF THE MIGHTY **ORANGO!** WHEN THEY FACE A CRISIS, THEY CALL UPON **HIM** FOR HELP!

AND WITH SENOR GARCIA, THE WEALTHY LANDOWNER, DEMANDING FULL PAYMENT ON THEIR LAND, OR IMMEDIATE FORECLOSURE, THEY FACE A CRISIS INDEED!





BUT I'M AFRAID THAT CALLING UPON SOME IMAGINARY HERO DEMON WILL BE OF LITTLE USE TO THEM IN THEIR PRESENT TROUBLE!

QUITE SO, BOB, AND YET, AS A RESEARCHER, I'VE COME ACROSS SOME INTERESTING LEGENDS--AND THE **ORANGO** LEGEND HAS ALWAYS INTRIGUED ME---



"LONG BEFORE THE ADVENT OF SPANISH EXPLORATION, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS THE TENTH CENTURY, THIS AREA WAS INVADED BY THE PROUD INCAS! IT WAS AN UNEVEN BATTLE, AND THE NATIVES OF THIS REGION WERE FORCED TO FLEE---"



"IN THEIR FLIGHT SOME PAUSED TO CALL UPON **ORANGO**--BEGGING HIM TO HELP THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED---"

HELP US, OH MIGHTY ORANGO!
DO NOT FAIL US NOW!



THE LEGEND SAYS THAT ORANGO APPEARED OUT OF THE SMOKE---

LOOK! HE HAS COME!



"THREE TIMES, THEY SAY, HE BLEW UPON HIS TRUMPET--- AND THE JUNGLE TREMBLED BEFORE THE MIGHTY BLAST---"



"AND ANSWERING THE CALL CAME THE BEASTS OF THE WILD, TAKING THEIR PLACE BEHIND ORANGO, WHO LED THE CHARGE---"

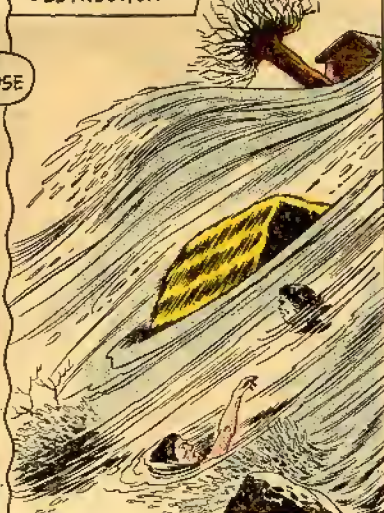


"THEY FELL UPON THE INCAS, DRIVING THEM BEFORE THEM---"

AN INTERESTING STORY, PROFESSOR, AND TYPICAL OF PRIMITIVE FOLKLORE! OF COURSE, THIS **ORANGO** MUST HAVE PERFORMED FOR THEM ON OTHER OCCASIONS, TOO!

YES! THE LEGEND SAYS THAT IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, THIS AREA WAS INUNDATED BY TERRIBLE FLOODS WHEN THE RIVER ROSE ABOVE ITS BANKS!

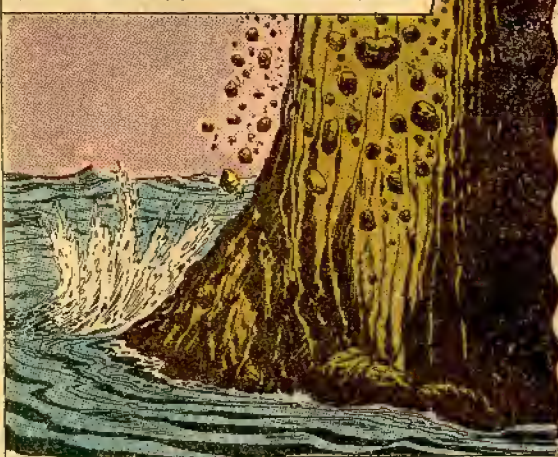
"HOUSES WERE SWEEPED AWAY, LIVES WERE LOST AND THE ENTIRE AREA FACED COMPLETE DESTRUCTION..."



"AGAIN THEY CALLED UPON **ORANGO**... AND AGAIN HE ANSWERED! HE SHOOK LOOSE HUGE BOULDERS FROM THE FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN..."



"THE AVALANCHES HE STARTED BROUGHT DOWN TONS OF EARTH AND ROCK INTO THE SWIRLING WATERS, AND THE FLOOD WAS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL..."

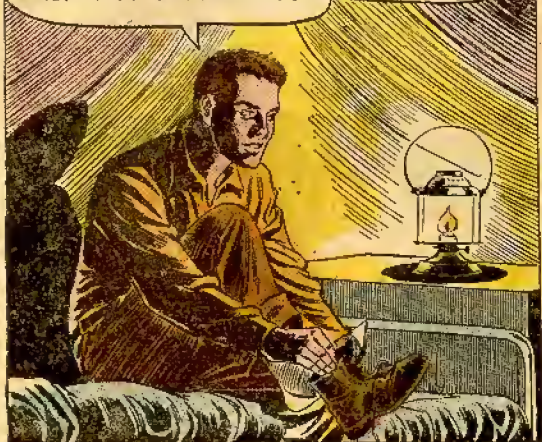


SO THERE YOU HAVE IT! AND NOW, AS IN TIMES PAST, THE PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN CALL UPON **ORANGO** TO ANSWER IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED!

ONLY THIS TIME, WHEN THEY NEED HARD **CASH** TO PAY OFF THEIR DEBTS, **ORANGO** WOULD BE HARD PUT TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO HELP THEM!



THIS TIME IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A **LEGEND**! QUITE FRANKLY, THEIR WISEST COURSE WOULD BE TO ACCEPT THEIR FATE AND MAKE WHAT PLANS THEY CAN FOR THE FUTURE!



BUT LATE THAT SAME NIGHT, A THUNDEROUS ROAR SHATTERED THE STILLNESS...

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S THE VOLCANO! IT'S ERUPTING!

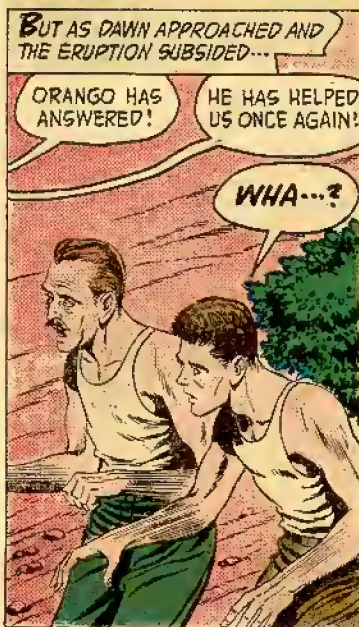




WHAT WOULD YOU SAY **NOW**, PROFESSOR? THIS IS SCARCELY THE KIND OF HELP ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM ORANGO...



INSTEAD OF ANSWERING THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED, HE POURS MOLTEN LAVA UPON THEIR HOMES AND THEIR LAND! ANYWAY, IT'S A **WARM** WAY OF SAYING GOODBYE!



BUT AS DAWN APPROACHED AND THE ERUPTION SUBSIDED...

ORANGO HAS ANSWERED!

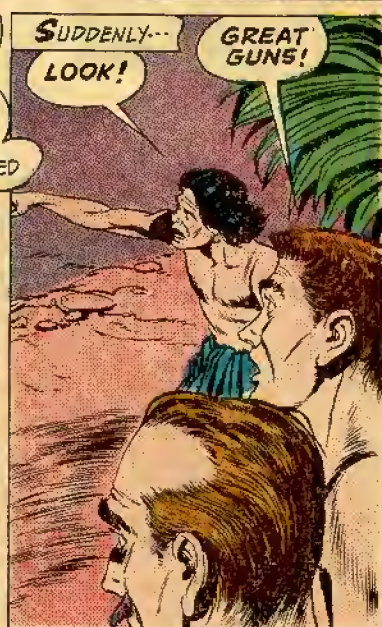
HE HAS HELPED US ONCE AGAIN!

WHA...?



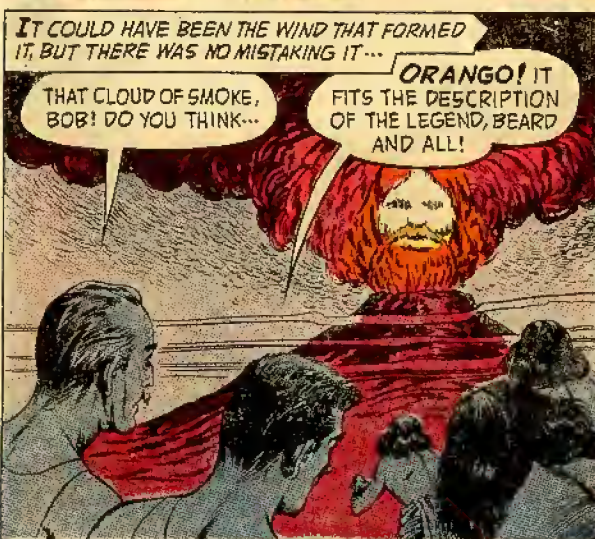
GOOD HEAVENS, LOOK WHAT THEY'RE CARRYING... IT'S SOLID GOLD!

THE ERUPTION MUST HAVE BLOWN UP A HIDDEN GOLD VEIN INSIDE THE VOLCANO! INSTEAD OF LAVA, IT SHOWERED THEM WITH **GOLD!**



SUDDENLY...
LOOK!

GREAT GUNS!



IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE WIND THAT FORMED IT, BUT THERE WAS NO MISTAKING IT...

THAT CLOUD OF SMOKE, BOB! DO YOU THINK...

ORANGO! IT FITS THE DESCRIPTION OF THE LEGEND, BEARD AND ALL!



THE STRANGE IMAGE LASTED BUT A MINUTE... THEN THE WIND WAFTED IT OFF...

THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, PROFESSOR! SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED HERE WHICH OUR KNOWLEDGE CAN NEVER HOPE TO ANSWER!

PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL, BOB! PERHAPS SOME QUESTIONS ARE BEST **LEFT** UNANSWERED!

THE
END!

From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

Hi, fans! It's time for our monthly "Forbidden Worlds" get-together. This month, we want you to meet Kermit Lundgren, author of "Safari To The Stars". Kermit's a guy who was cut out to be a writer from the very first. He had quite an education, being graduated from college with high honors in science. Immediately, he turned to journalism, and began writing scientific treatises and learned papers. At a party, he met and snubbed one of "Forbidden Worlds" best writers—we won't mention names. Comics writers, Kermit told him; just don't rate—they were nowhere! Our boy retorted "Sour grapes! You couldn't write a comics script if you tried—you're strictly a longhaired guy without the imagination it takes!" Thus challenged, Kermit set out to prove things. Very carefully he framed a story and sent it to us—and very promptly, we threw it back at him. This got him sore. Promptly, we received a second story, a third, a fourth—and with equal promptness, we rejected them—in each case, telling him why. It turned into a challenge for Kermit—so much so that he forgot his scientific treatises and learned papers, and threw himself heart and soul into the project of proving that he could too write good comics! And gradually, we started noticing an improvement. There was more excitement in his plots. His characters were growing more human. And finally, we knew we had a writer on our hands! Since then, he's become a steady and valued contributor. How do you like his stuff, readers? Tell us! Address your letters to The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds", 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.—and let us know what you think of our magazine in general! Here are a few selected opinions from other readers:

"Dear Editor:—

I've just read my first 'Forbidden Worlds', your September issue. I found it one of the most interesting comics I've ever seen. The story I liked best was 'Death Of A Ghost'. But all of the others were also fascinating, and made you stop and think. I can find only one thing wrong, and that's your cover, which was misleading, since it seemed to promise more excitement than the story actually contained. But the rest of the book was truly excellent anyway. And I think you have the right to snap back at people who criticize you impolitely. After all, if they can do it, why can't you? Also, I wish you would devote three pages to reader opinions. Not that it isn't nice of you to have two—most comics don't bother to even do this! Lots of luck!

—Anna Loomis, Rhinelander, Wis."

Glad you like our book, Anna. We're sorry if you find our cover exaggerates. It's true that we try to lead with our best foot on it, though!

"Dear Editor:—

What ails those two fellows, Rick Eskola and Joe Sprague in issue No. 74? I like 'Forbidden Worlds' and don't like being called a lunatic. I do think, however, that you could have a few more stories along the line of space travel. I particularly liked 'The Second Visit'. Keep up the good work!

—Harry Griner, Pembroke, Ga."

We agree, Harry. We feel that people are entitled to hate us to pieces if they want to, but that doesn't give them license to hurl insults, particularly at our readers! About space stories . . . we generally run one an issue for fans of science fiction—but we have to present a wide variety of thrilling stories, to satisfy as many of our fans as possible.

"Dear Editor:—

I just got your December issue and I hated it. 'The Magic Maker' was mixed up and 'Thanksgiving Day' was nuts and 'The Riddle of Robert O'Malley' was nutty too. But the first one was the best. Whoever wrote it was a good writer.

—Steve Johnston, Everett, Wash."

We're not going to fight with Steve in his objections, because we have the feeling that he's one of our younger readers and perhaps we're a little over his head. The story he does like, however, turns out to be "Herbie's Quiet Saturday Afternoon"—which gives us hope for him!

"Dear Editor:—

I am a loyal fan of 'Forbidden Worlds'. I have just finished reading issue No. 73, and would like to express my opinion. I think that 'Herbie's Quiet Saturday Afternoon' was one of the worst stories you ever printed. I think whoever thought up that one should have his head examined. But now that I've let off some steam, I wish to compliment you on the rest of your magazine. 'Thanksgiving Day' and 'The Riddle of Robert O'Malley' were two of the best stories I've ever read. Keep up the good work! Still loyal—

—Paul Burak, Bayside, N. Y."

It just goes to show that it takes all kinds of opinions to make up a magazine's world! Sorry that you didn't care for Herbie, Paul. Personally, we're crazy about him!

"Dear Editor:—

In the No. 68 issue of 'Forbidden Worlds', I was surprised to see a story as good as 'The Ivory Curse' printed anywhere! 'The Dome of Doom' was very good, and 'It Happened In Central Europe' was just plain super! About the idea for a rock and roll story suggested by Pamela Holland of Malden, Mass.—it doesn't appeal to me at all.

About the All-Star Issue No. 100 of *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*, it was just exactly that. Here are my ratings for that issue: *'The Head Man'*—absolutely tops! *'Preliminary Hearing'*—superb beyond words. *'Phantom Submarine'*—really good. *'Nothing Ever Happens To Halloran'*—swell! I'd like to know if you have a back issue of *'Forbidden Worlds'* No. 65—everyone raved about *'There's A New Moon Tonight'* and I missed that issue. I have just one little complaint—in *'Forbidden Worlds'* No. 69, the artwork on the story *'The Vortex'* was poor. In *'Adventures Into The Unknown'* No. 99, here are my ratings: *'Missing, One Scientist'*, terrific—and how true it is! *'Strange Race'*, swell. *'Forgotten Forest'*, magnificent. *'Muscle Man Melvin'*, good. Now for the grand finale, *'Journey Into Antiquity'* was a true masterpiece—colossal, superb, great, neat, wonderful, magnificent! Thanks for a truly wonderful magazine. So, when you get a letter from someone like John Walkin, of Fargo, N. D., don't even read more than the first insulting line!

—Catherine Madsen, El Paso, Texas"

All we can do is thank you for a letter of this type, Catherine, and hope you mean every word of it. But actually, we don't feel that we deserve this much praise. We fall down on the job every once in awhile, and make some pretty drastic 'boo-boos. One thing, though—we're always in there punching!

"Dear Editor:—

I am a steady reader of comic books on science fiction, but *'Forbidden Worlds'* is positively the best. I've just been browsing through your December issue and would like to say that your very different story, *'Herbie's Quiet Saturday Afternoon'* was one type I'd like to see more of. This fellow Herbie has quite a one-track mind—meaning his lollipop! But *'Magic Maker'* stank! The story called *'Thanksgiving Day'* was a truly deep one. It really told the story of what money and wealth will do to men. Also, I want to say that I agree with Harvey Kinder in the broad sense of his suggestion. I'd like to suggest a nice long story on the monster of Loch Ness in Scotland—without the story turning out to be a fake, without somebody solving the mystery, without it being just a lot of horror. I'll be looking forward to the answer to my letter in an early issue of the most popular science comic—*'Forbidden Worlds'*! Hey—why don't you have many girls in your stories?

—George Robertson, Salt Lake City, Utah"

Glad you're a patriot for Herbie, George, since we love him, too! You must have something in your opinion of *'Magic Maker'*, since many of our fans seem to share your feelings about it. Sorry if we erred on that one. We've passed along your suggestion on the Loch Ness monster to six of our writers, and if one of them comes up with a really good yarn, you'll see it in print! About the girls—we like them, too. The only reason we don't have more is that some of our stories are just a bit on the grim side, and we do try to protect the gentler sex!

"Dear Editor:—

Can a grownup get in on the letters to the Editor? I don't think I've missed over 3 or 4 issues of *'Forbidden Worlds'* or *'Adventures Into The Unknown'* in the past year or so. I guess I'm what you call a faithful reader. If permitted, I would like to throw a few flowers and a little criticism your way. I am specifically referring to your December No. 73 issue. First, *'Herbie's Quiet Saturday Afternoon'* was a pretty good story. Different and interesting. *'Magic Maker'* was at the bottom of the class. I didn't care for it at all. *'Thanksgiving Day'* was run of the mill—I've read many stories with the same plot. *'The Riddle of Robert O'Malley'* was of the same stuff. This letter was supposed to be 'flowers', but—well—I guess Issue No. 73 was a boner. But in all truthfulness, that was the first issue of *'Forbidden Worlds'* that I was ever disappointed in. You have a great magazine, and I sincerely appreciate all the fine hours of enjoyment you have given to me. I am the manager of the Western Union Telegraph Office in this town, and come in contact with many people. The average person (I am referring to a grownup) thinks your magazine is fine. Thanks again from a loyal reader who knows that you can't please all of us all the time.

—George 'Hank' Martin, Glasgow, Mont."

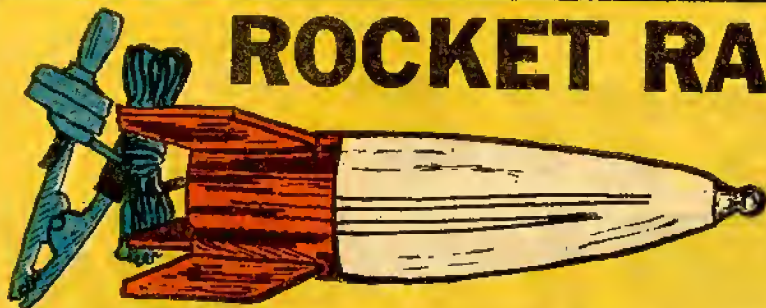
We truly appreciate your fine and sincere letter, Hank. Only one correction that we'd like to make—large numbers of our readers are adult. We try to give this magazine a universal appeal—to any age bracket capable of appreciating suspenseful and imaginative reading. We thought that *'Thanksgiving Day'* was a pretty keen yarn ourselves, but we could be wrong, and you right. As far as the rest of that issue goes, we're in agreement with you.

"Dear Editor:—

We have been observing you for a long while and we all feel that you deserve praise on your magazines. Stories like *'The Castaway'* in *'Forbidden Worlds'* and *'Strange Delusion'* in your other magazine, *'Adventures Into The Unknown'*, were very interesting. *'Rocket Pilot Robbins Reporting'* and *'The Strange Ones'* in this magazine held the interest of 80 per cent of the people on our planet. As for fake letters, which some earthlings accuse you of, we have watched you carefully, and know that you do not write the letters yourselves. You once stated that your magazine's circulation has been growing on Earth. Well, people on all the planets of the Galaxy read it! And as for the Earthling who criticised you for making your space aliens humanoid, just tell him that you never known when Spacemen may be lurking about!

—Oz Goro, Mayor of Vellorana, Capital of Planet Venus"

So nice of you to write, Oz Goro! You're doubtless here as a Good Will Ambassador, right? We notice your letter comes from Chicago, Ill.—bet you don't have a city on Venus that equals it! But keep on watching our magazines—you'll learn things about Space you never even dreamed of!



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Address.....

A THOUSAND YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THAT EVIL TAIN'T HAD COME UPON THE LAND! TEN CENTURIES HAD COME AND GONE, AND YET MEN STILL SHUDDERED AT THE MENTION OF---

The CASTLE of KRAKEN!



STORY: CURT CARPENTER
ART: BECK-COSTANZA

JON CORBIN AND RICK THRALE WERE PROSPECTING FOR URANIUM DEEP IN THE LEGEND-HAUNTED MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL EUROPE WHEN THEY STUMBLED UPON THE RUINED CASTLE---

THAT'S ODD! THERE ARE FAINT SIGNS OF RADIATION ALL AROUND THESE RUINS, BUT NOT A TRACE OF ANY RADIOACTIVE MINERAL ANYWHERE ON THE SURFACE!

THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS OLD CASTLE! NOT A PEASANT WILL COME WITHIN MILES OF THE PLACE! I WONDER WHY!

They QUESTIONED AN OLD CRONE---

IT IS SAID THAT THE RUINS ARE **CURSED** --- WITH AN EVIL SO GREAT THAT IT WILL DESTROY THOSE WHO LINGER IN THE REMNANTS OF THE **CASTLE OF KRAKEN!**

AND SO SHE BEGAN THE TALE OF **NIKOR**, THE DUKE OF KRAKEN --- WHO ONCE RULED THAT LAND WITH THE LASH AND SWORD---

MAKE WAY FOR THE MIGHTY DUKE OF KRAKEN!



BORN WITH A LUST FOR POWER, NIKOR HAD SPREAD HIS DOMAIN ACROSS THE LAND... SWALLOWING ONE NEIGHBOR AFTER ANOTHER ...

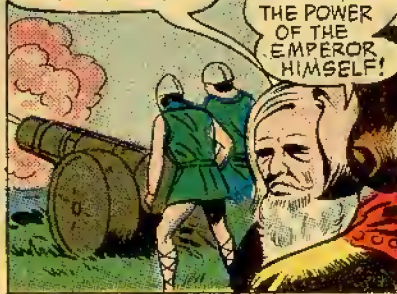
ANOTHER STRONGHOLD IS MINE! WHO IS MIGHTY ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE POWER OF MY ARMIES?



YES, VICTORY CAME EASILY TO NIKOR! FOR HIS MEN WERE EQUIPPED WITH THE FINEST ENGINES OF WAR... ALL DEVISED BY HIS ALCHEMIST, BRUNO!

IT IS CALLED A **CANNON**, MY LORD! THE PRINCIPLE WAS DISCOVERED IN FAR CATHAY!

WITH A WEAPON LIKE THAT, I CAN CHALLENGE THE POWER OF THE EMPEROR HIMSELF!



YOU HAVE DONE WELL, BRUNO! ASK ANY REWARD YOU LIKE!

MY LORD, I TAKE NO PRIDE IN DEVISING WEAPONS! I WANT NO REWARD EXCEPT TO BE LEFT IN PEACE WITH MY EXPERIMENTS!

WORKING ON YOUR CANNON DELAYED MY INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRANSMUTATION OF METALS!

BRUNO, YOU SPEAK NONSENSE! FOR AGES, MEN HAVE DREAMED OF TURNING BASE METALS INTO GOLD... BUT IT IS A DREAM OF FOOLS!

GOLD HAS NO LURE FOR ME, MY LORD! WHAT INTERESTS ME ARE THE VAST POWERS HIDDEN ALL ABOUT US, WAITING TO BE RELEASED! POWERS WHICH CAN UNLOCK **WEALTH** UNTOLD FOR THE RACE OF MAN!



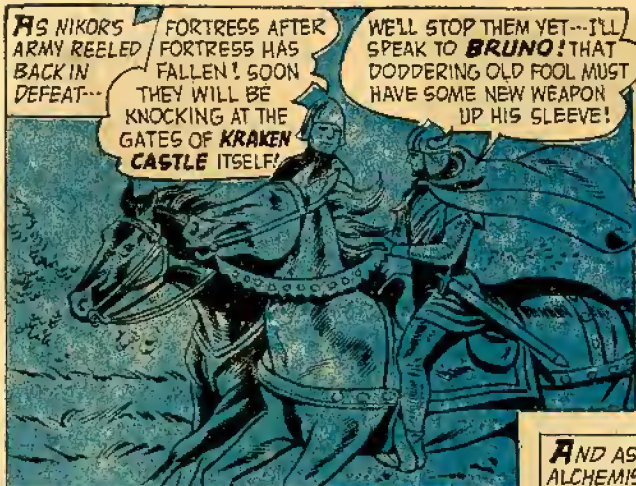
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO GAIN WEALTH, BRUNO! **CONQUER** OTHERS, ENSLAVE THEM, AND THEIR GOLD IS YOURS! MY EXPERIMENTS HAVE PROVED **THAT!**

BUT NIKOR'S DREAMS OF CONQUEST WERE SOON SHATTERED...

SO, THE SCURVY DOGS DARE TO ATTACK ME! I'LL TEACH THEM A LESSON THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!

THE LESSON MUST WAIT, NIKOR! WE ARE ALMOST SURROUNDED! NOT EVEN OUR CANNON ARE ENOUGH TO HOLD THEM BACK!





AS NIKOR'S
ARMY REELED
BACK IN
DEFEAT...

FORTRESS AFTER
FORTRESS HAS
FALLEN! SOON
THEY WILL BE
KNOCKING AT THE
GATES OF **KRAKEN**
CASTLE ITSELF!

WE'LL STOP THEM YET--I'LL
SPEAK TO **BRUNO**! THAT
DODDERING OLD FOOL MUST
HAVE SOME NEW WEAPON
UP HIS SLEEVE!

IT WAS WITH A SENSE OF PENDING DISASTER
THAT BRUNO SAW THE DUKE ONCE MORE---



NIKOR, I AM BUSY AT MY
EXPERIMENTS! I LEFT
WORD NOT TO BE
DISTURBED!

SILENCE, YOU
WRINKLED OLD
FOOL! AM I THEN
A FLUNKY, TO
BE KEPT WAITING
OUT HERE?

SUDDENLY FROM THE ROOM BEHIND, GHASTLY
FLAMES ERUPTED---



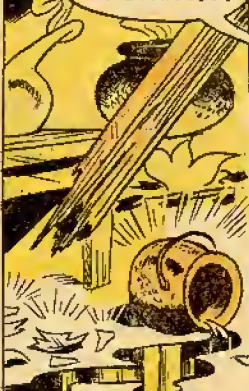
MALVI!
THE RETORT!
WATCH
OUT!

BA-ROOM!

AND AS THE OLD
ALCHEMIST SURVEYED THE
WRECKAGE, HE SHUDDERED
WITH A PRIMEVAL FEAR!

THE SHATTERED GLASS
---IT GLOWS AS IF IT WERE
POSSESSED BY AN UNHOLY
FIRE!

AYE, IT IS INDEED
AN UNHOLY FIRE!
TURN AWAY, LEAST
IT SEAR YOU!



NIKOR SHOWED A SUDDEN
INTEREST IN BRUNO'S
EXPERIMENTS---

TELL ME, WHAT BLACK ARTS
HAVE YOU BEEN PRACTICING
IN THAT ROOM?

MY LORD, FOR A MOMENT
I WAS STANDING ON THE
BRINK OF A VAST NEW
POWER **GREATER**
THAN ANY
FORCE
KNOWN
ON EARTH!



THEN YOU HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH
WEAPONS, EH? GOOD! THIS MIGHTY NEW
POWER SHALL BE USED TO SERVE ME IN BATTLE!



NO---I DARE NOT! THE RELEASE
OF SUCH A POWER COULD
DESTROY WHOLE CITIES
AT A BLOW! I WILL
HAVE NOTHING TO DO
WITH IT!

ANGRILY, THE
DUKE HURLED
THE DEFIANT
ALCHEMIST
INTO A
DUNGEON! THE
NEXT DAY, BRUNO'S
ASSISTANT
SOUGHT AN
AUDIENCE WITH
HIM---

TRUE, MY LORD
DUKE, THERE ARE
SOME WHO ARE
DULL-WITTED, BUT
I, **MALVI**, AM
YOUNG AND
AMBITIOUS!

I AM SICK OF DULL-WITTED
ALCHEMISTS AND DABBLERS
IN POTIONS! WHAT IS IT YOU
WANT? SPEAK!





WITHIN DAYS, THE DUKE'S SOLDIERS WERE HERDING LONG FILES OF PEASANTS INTO THE MINES---

WHO ARE THESE BEING CARRIED OUT?

OTHERS LIKE US, DRIVEN INTO THE PITS BY THE DUKE'S MEN--- THERE TO SICKEN AND DIE!

THE EXPERIMENTS REQUIRE RARE EARTHS FROM THE MINES OF DRAKENFELD, BUT THE MINES ARE UNHEALTHY---IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET MEN TO WORK THERE!

REST ASSURED THE MINES WILL HAVE ALL THE MEN THEY NEED!

AND ONCE, WHEN THE DUKE HIMSELF VISITED THE MINES---

MY LORD, SAVE US! WE DIE LIKE FLIES DOWN THERE! HAVE MERCY!



AND AS WEEK FOLLOWED WEEK---

THERE IS NOT ROOM ENOUGH HERE TO CONTINUE MY WORK --- BESIDES, I AM AFRAID LEST YOUR ENEMIES STEAL THE SECRET OF OUR NEW WEAPON!

VERY WELL! YOU WILL MOVE YOUR EXPERIMENTS TO MY CASTLE AT KRAKEN! I WILL CLEAR THE AREA OF ALL WHO DWELL THERE!

AND SO TO PRESERVE THE SECRET OF THE NEW WEAPON, PEASANTS WERE DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES NEAR THE CASTLE---

AND DEEP WITHIN THE CASTLE WALLS, MALVI CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER TO SUCCESS!

THERE, IT IS ALMOST DONE! WE NEED BUT A FARTHING'S-WEIGHT OF THIS NEW METAL. BRUNO DISCOVERED, AND THE TASK IS COMPLETED!

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE? SPEAK!



TO EXTRACT THAT SMALL AMOUNT OF PRECIOUS METAL WILL TAKE TWO CART LOADS OF THE RARE EARTHS FROM DRAKENFELD MINES!

YOU WILL HAVE THAT EARTH TOMORROW--AND I WILL EXPECT THE WEAPON TO BE FINISHED BY THEN TOO!

INSIDE--- AT LAST, MY LORD--THE FINAL METAL WE NEED! WHEN THIS IS JOINED TO WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE, THE WEAPON WILL BE READY!

THESE EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN DRAGGING ON LONG ENOUGH! TAKE THE FINAL STEP NOW!

THAT NIGHT FEAR ENGULFED THE DUKE-DOM, AS AN UNFATHOMABLE SENSE OF EVIL SPREAD AMONG THE PEOPLE! WHISPERING, THEY WATCHED THE CASTLE ALL THAT NEXT DAY...

AYE! THEY SAY IT IS TODAY THAT THE GREAT WEAPON WILL BE TESTED!

IT IS SAID TO BE A THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN THE BLACK POWDER FROM CATHAY!

VARROOMM!

AN INSTANT LATER, AS THE POPULACE WATCHED AGHAST, THE NEW WEAPON ERUPTED IN ALL ITS FANTASTIC POWER!

AN IMMENSE CLOUD OF PECULIAR SHAPE ROSE SLOWLY AND MENACINGLY OVER THE CASTLE RUINS...

IT LOOKS LIKE A MUSHROOM ---A HUGE MUSHROOM!

MORE LIKE A POISONOUS TOADSTOOL, I'D SAY!

YES, IT WAS THE GREATEST WEAPON MAN HAD EVER SEEN ---A POWER AS CRUEL AND EVIL AS DUKE NIKOR HIMSELF! AND THE WORLD WAS NOT **READY** FOR SUCH A WEAPON!

AND AS THE OLD CRONE FINISHED HER STORY, THE TWO PROSPECTORS SHUDDERED WITH A DREAD REALIZATION!

BA-ROOM!

A WEAPON SPAWNED IN THE SECRECY OF THE DARK AGES---AND NOW REDISCOVERED! IS THE WORLD READY FOR THE WEAPON EVEN NOW?

THERE it was, lost in the infinity of space -- a planet that was the mirror image of what our own Earth had been over a million years in the past! And then that strange world of wonder was invaded by a deadly --

SAFARI *to the* STARS!



STORY:
KERMIT
LUNDGREN
ART:
JOHN
FORTE

ON THE DISTANT PLANET *ICON I* -- AS A GAME WARDEN GUIDED A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR THROUGH THIS STRANGE WORLD --

A HERD OF MASTODONS -- EXACTLY AS THEY LIVED ON EARTH AGES AGO! IT'S AMAZING!

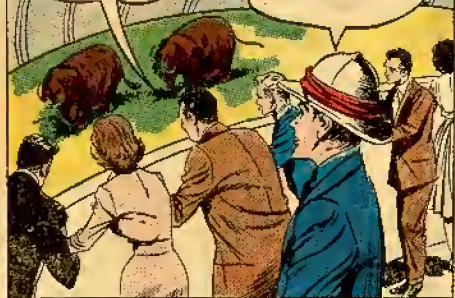
WITH BILLIONS OF PLANETS IN THE COSMOS, IT WOULD BE AMAZING IF WE DIDN'T FIND ONE THAT DUPLICATED THE EARLY ENVIRONMENT OF EARTH!

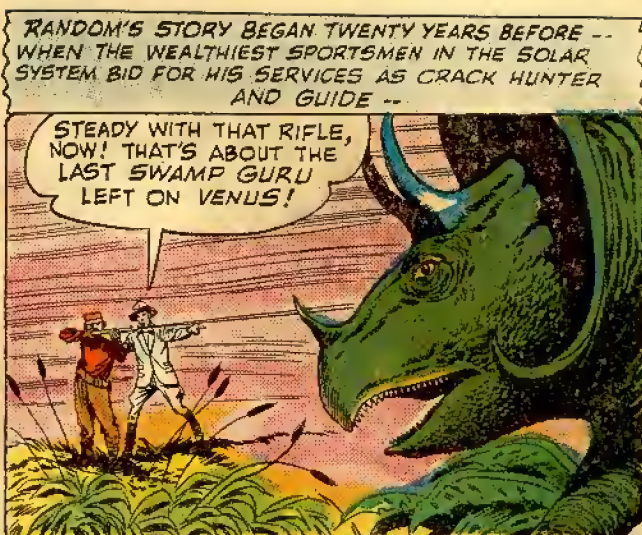
THE LIFE CYCLE ON *ICON I* IS A MILLION YEARS BEHIND THAT OF EARTH! AND SO THE GALACTIC UNION HAS MADE THIS A RESERVATION DESIGNED TO TEACH US THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT!

AS THE TOUR ENDED, A SIGHT-SEER APPROACHED THE WARDEN --

EXCUSE ME, I'M A TRAVEL REPORTER FOR THE *EARTH-VENUS SENTINEL*! AREN'T YOU JEFF RANDOM, THE FAMOUS GUIDE AND HUNTER?

THAT WAS ALL LONG AGO! I'VE BEEN GAME WARDEN HERE FOR FIVE YEARS NOW!

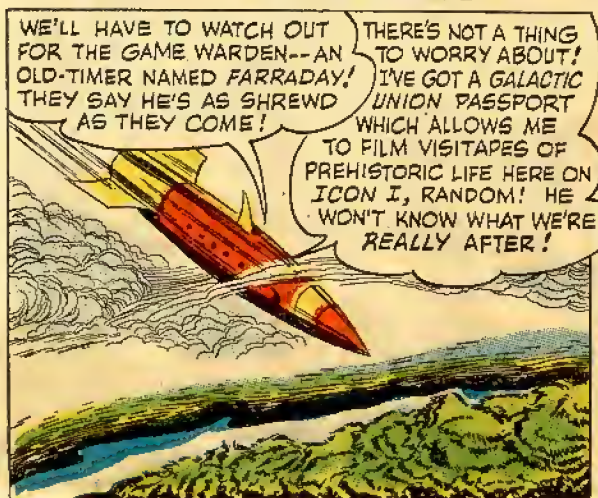




HIS REPUTATION AS A RUTHLESS HUNTER
GREW AS HE GUIDED HIS PATRONS TO
RARE TROPHIES AND NEW RECORDS...



TWO MONTHS LATER, THEY WERE DROPPING IN THROUGH
THE MISTY ATMOSPHERE OF ICON I --



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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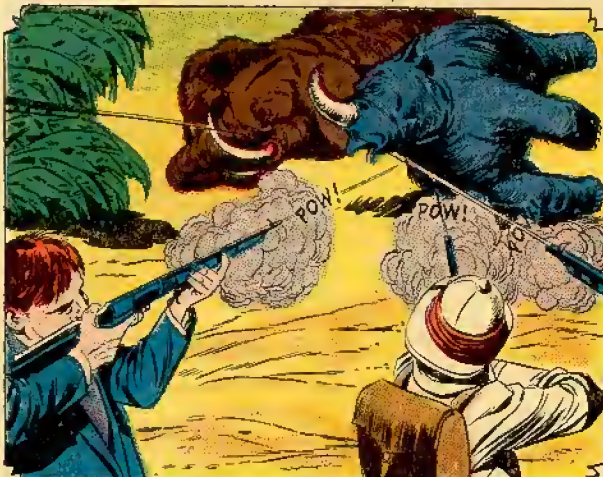
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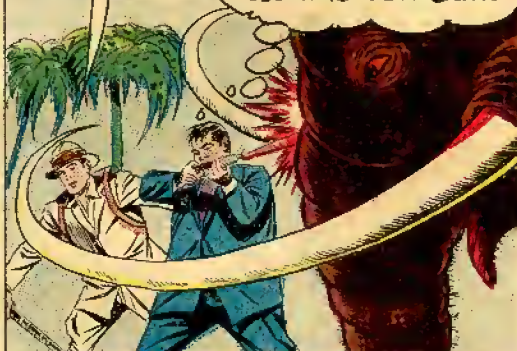
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THE HUNTING BEGAN AND ONE MIGHTY PREHISTORIC MONSTER AFTER ANOTHER DROPPED BEFORE THEIR RIFLES--



BUT WHEN RANDOM CUNNINGLY LURED A GIANT MASTODON INTO A CHARGE -- GREADE'S NERVE SUDDENLY GAVE WAY!

ALL RIGHT, GREADE, I--I'LL NEVER STOP HE'S ALL YOURS! TAKE HIM! THAT BRUTE WITH A RIFLE! I'VE GOT TO USE THIS ION GUN!



IT WAS PITIFUL! THE POOR BEAST CHARGED RIGHT OUT OF THE AEONS OF TIME -- STRAIGHT INTO THE BLASTING RAY OF THE ION GUN! IT NEVER HAD A CHANCE!

BUT SUDDENLY -- ABOVE --

IT'S THE GAME WARDEN! HOW DID HE EVER SPOT US?

HIS SCANNER RAYS PICKED UP THE RADIATION WHEN YOU LET GO WITH THAT ION GUN, YOU FOOL!

WHY, YOU WHITE-LIVERED COWARD! DID YOU HAVE TO USE THAT GADGET?

NOW, RANDOM, BE REASONABLE! I COULDN'T HAVE STOPPED HIM ANY OTHER WAY! ANYHOW, THE MAIN THING WAS TO GET MY TROPHY!

ZOOOONNNNN



GREADE HAD HIS STORY READY WHEN FARRADAY QUESTIONED HIM -- BUT THE OLD-TIMER DIDN'T BUY IT --

I'M SORRY, WARDEN! I WAS FILMING SOME VISITAPES UNDER A GALACTIC PERMIT WHEN THAT BEAST ATTACKED US! I HAD TO DESTROY HIM!

YOU'D HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF CONVINCING ME IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE JEFF RANDOM WITH YOU AS YOUR GUIDE, MR. GREADE!



SO YOU'VE HEARD OF ME TOO, FARRADAY? I GUESS MY REPUTATION HAS TRAVELED PRETTY FAR!

CALL IT YOUR REPUTATION AS A GAME DESTROYER, RANDOM! ACCORDING TO THE RECORD, YOU'VE HELPED WIPE OUT A DOZEN RARE SPECIES OF WILDLIFE IN THIS GALAXY!

NOW WAIT A MINUTE, FARRADAY! HUNTING IS MY BUSINESS! DON'T BLAME ME IF --

AND PROTECTING THE GAME ON THIS PLANET IS MY BUSINESS! I'VE DEVOTED THIRTY YEARS TO PRESERVING THE ANIMAL SPECIES ON ICON 1! I'M REPORTING BOTH OF YOU TO HEADQUARTERS-- RIGHT NOW!

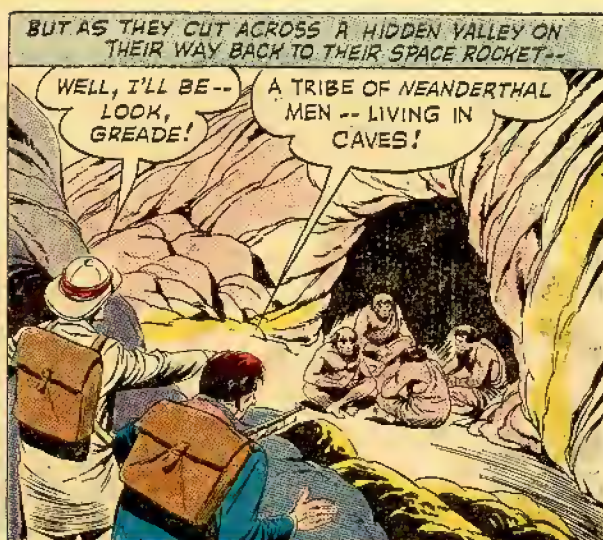




ANGRILY, FARRADAY TOOK OFF --

WELL, YOU FIXED IT, GREADE! THAT'S AN END TO *THIS* SAFARI!

YOU'RE RIGHT! WE MIGHT AS WELL PACK UP AND LEAVE!



BUT AS THEY CUT ACROSS A HIDDEN VALLEY ON THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR SPACE ROCKET --

WELL, I'LL BE -- LOOK, GREADE!

A TRIBE OF NEANDERTHAL MEN -- LIVING IN CAVES!

PASSING THROUGH, THEY OBSERVED SEVERAL TRIBES SHARING THE VALLEY... AND THEN GREADE GOT HIS BIG IDEA...

BUT THEN CAME GREADE'S NEXT IDEA --

BAH! THIS STUFF IS TOO TAME -- WHAT WE NEED IS A LITTLE ACTION ON THESE TAPES! HOW ABOUT A FIGHT BETWEEN TWO TRIBES? ELEMENTAL MEN AT WAR -- THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!

NOW WAIT A MINUTE, GREADE! WE DON'T WANT TO START ANY TROUBLE HERE!

MY VISITAPE CAMERA! RANDOM, IF I COULD GET THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THESE NEANDERTHALS DOWN ON TAPE, IT WOULD BE WORTH A FORTUNE -- BACK ON EARTH!

SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, GREADE!



BUT GREADE WAS TOO ENGROSSSED IN HIS PLAN TO LISTEN...

A GIRL! THAT'S IT! THESE STONE-AGE TRIBES WOULD ALWAYS FIGHT WHERE THEIR WOMEN WERE CONCERNED!

GREADE, WAIT!



IT WAS DONE BEFORE RANDOM COULD STOP IT! GREADE BRIBED A TRIBAL CHIEF WITH AN AXE, THEN LURED HIS DAUGHTER TOWARD A DISTANT CAVE WITH A HANDFUL OF BEADS --

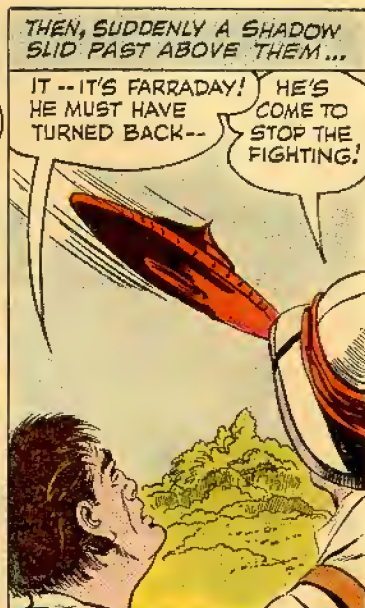


SURE -- WE'RE FRIENDS, YOU AND ME! COME ALONG AND I'LL GIVE YOU MORE BEADS -- GET IT?

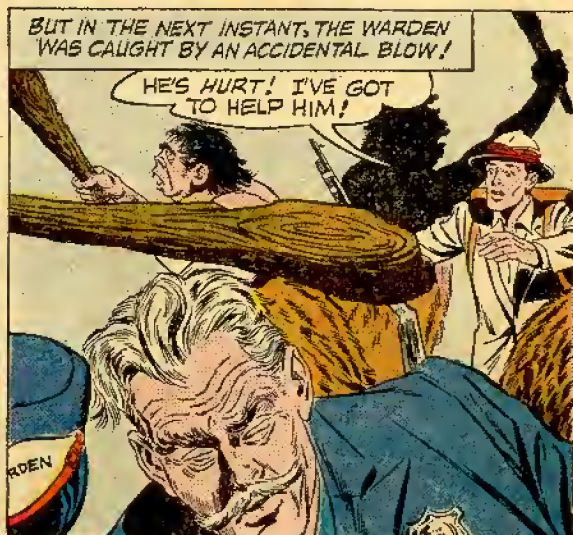
TO THE ADJOINING TRIBE, THE GIRL WAS A PRIZE OF WAR! SHE COULD WORK, CARRY WATER, CLEAN HIDES --



I'D BETTER HEAD FOR A GOOD VANTAGE POINT! THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME REAL ACTION AROUND HERE WHEN THAT GIRL'S FATHER FINDS OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED!



UTTERLY WITHOUT FEAR, FARRADAY CHARGED IN AMONG THE COMBATANTS --



NOW THAT IT WAS ALL OVER, SOMETHING SEEMED TO HAPPEN TO FARRADAY'S STRENGTH, TO HIS SURENESS OF PURPOSE! HE WAS AN OLD MAN, WOUNDED --

I'LL HAVE TO PILOT YOUR SHIP BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS! YOU WON'T BE READY FOR ACTIVE DUTY FOR A LONG TIME!

BUT RANDOM, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE PLANET UNGUARDED! AND IT WILL TAKE MONTHS TO TRAIN A MAN TO TAKE MY PLACE!



BUT WHY PROTECT THE PLANET AT ALL? IT'S ONLY A GLORIFIED ZOO! THE MOST ADVANCED CREATURE HERE IS HARDLY MORE THAN SUB-HUMAN!

BUT SOME DAY THESE SUB-HUMANS WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A NEW RACE OF MEN, WITH A NEW CULTURE AND A NEW SCIENCE!



THEY'LL HAVE THEIR OWN SHAKESPEARES, DARWINS, EINSTEINS-- AND WITH WHAT WE CAN TEACH THEM, WHO KNOWS HOW FAR THEY WILL GO?

I--I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT!



ALL HIS LIFE, RANDOM HAD LEFT A TRAIL OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO MARK HIS PATH! NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE FELT A WAVE OF SHAME SWEEP OVER HIM --

FARRADAY, YOU KNOW ME AND MY RECORD...AND THE STORY ISN'T PRETTY! I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE UP FOR IT! I'M VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE AS TEMPORARY WARDEN ON ICON I UNTIL THEY GET A MAN TO REPLACE YOU!

AND I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER, RANDOM!



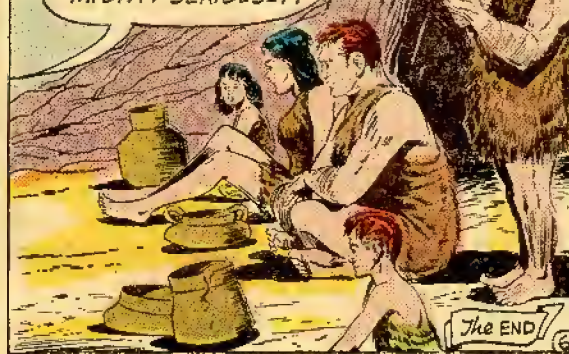
NOW -- AS JEFF RANDOM FINISHES HIS STORY--

--AND THAT'S HOW I BECAME WARDEN HERE ON ICON I! I GOT MY PERMANENT APPOINTMENT FIVE YEARS AGO --AND I'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE, TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR MY PAST RECORD!

BY THE WAY, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT FELLOW GREADE? EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?



YOU SEE, BY THE LAW OF THE TRIBE, IN OFFERING THE FATHER AN AXE AND GIVING THE GIRL THOSE BEADS, GREADE DIDN'T REALIZE HE WAS MAKING AN OFFER OF MARRIAGE! AND CAVE MEN TAKE PROPOSALS MIGHTY SERIOUSLY!

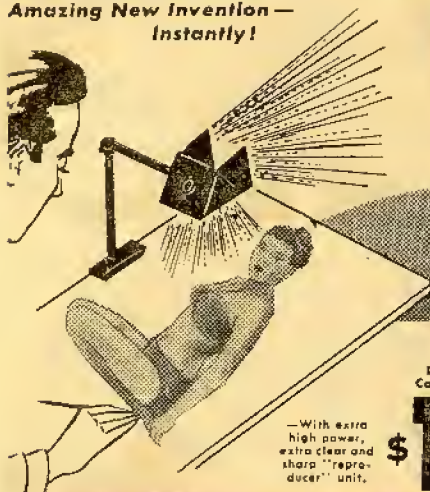


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